

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Quirky questions unveil the elegance of the universe for radio host

*CBC's Quirks and Quarks to be live-taped at the University of Alberta*

By Ileiren Byles

After 14 years of asking and answering science questions on CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks* program, host Bob McDonald truly believes there's no such thing as a stupid question.

"There can be stupid answers," he said. "There's really no such thing as a stupid question because questions are all about curiosity. You can be ignorant and say, 'Well, I don't know that,' but that doesn't make you stupid, it just makes you curious."

McDonald is hoping Edmontonians' curiosity will express itself when he brings the *Quirks and Quarks* program to the University of Alberta's Timms Centre for the Arts for its annual taped-live broadcast on June 1.

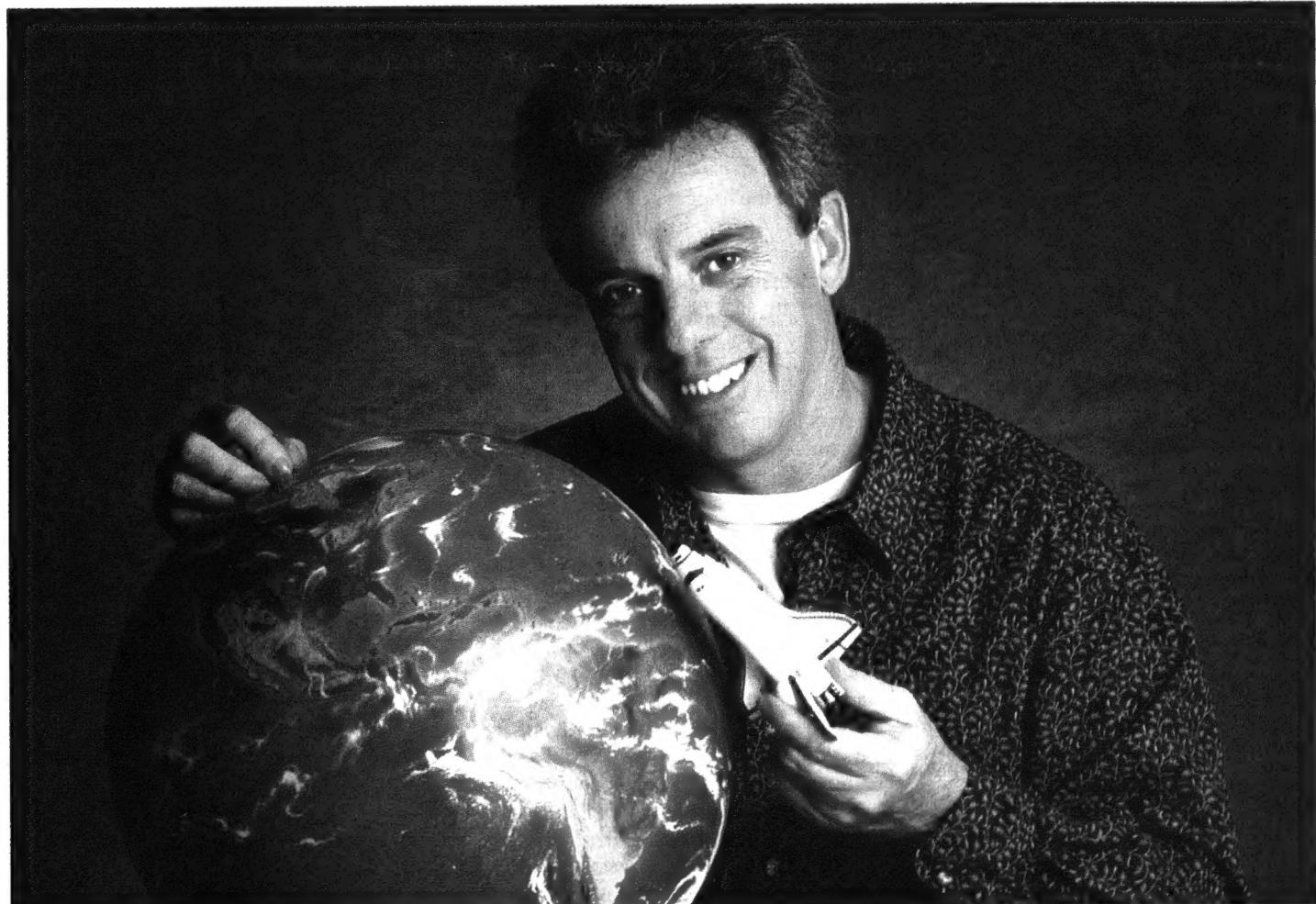
"Actually, we're a little bit misleading in saying that we're having a question show, that science has all the answers. It doesn't," he said. "It very often has more questions. But we figure some things out. But sometimes in science, you raise more questions than you get answers. But that's the nature of the beast."

But it's the element of surprise that has kept the job fresh and fascinating for McDonald over the past 14 years. "I get surprised all the time. This interview I just did 10 minutes ago, this guy talking about lakes underneath the Antarctic ice – they flow from one lake to the other, and these rivers flow uphill. So, water does flow uphill naturally," he said.

"We had a question on the show just last week about shaving gel – why some shaving creams come in gel form and then foam up. Well, it turns out there's this stuff in it that boils at skin temperature. It's a liquid until you put it on your face. I love those 'I didn't know that' moments. They happen all the time, that's the joy of this job."

As the world – North Americans, in particular – face an ever-increasing realm of technology in day-to-day life, it's easy to let the wonder pass us by, said McDonald.

"In Canada, I don't think we celebrate Canadian science enough, because there's



Bob McDonald, host of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, brings his program to the U of A June 1.

great stuff that happens here, including at the University of Alberta, which is why we're going there," he said. "You've got this new nanotechnology centre, you have a great health science centre. And I get to see this as part of what I do for a living, and it amazes me that people in Canada don't really know what Canadian science does."

As we become more accustomed to what we can accomplish, we become less amazed, said McDonald.

"Science used to be 'Gee whiz, gosh, golly, look at this electric light.' And now we just turn them on. It's just become ingrained in our culture. I don't think that kids walking down the street with iPods

are really thinking a whole lot about the chip that's running it and the astounding ability that this thing has to store so much information with no moving parts," he said. "So at least in terms of technology, I think we've become a little bit blasé about it."

But it's the simplest questions that often lead to the most elegant answers, said the CBC host.

"The beauty of it is that very often when you take a simple question, and this is what we try to do on this show, there's a lot to the answer. It's more than just the obvious," he said. "I mean, did you know that the spiral shape of a seashell is a mathematical shape that is reproduced again and again in nature, including the

shape of our Milky Way galaxy? So, the Milky Way is the largest single unit thing that we know of in the universe, and this giant thing that we live in has the same shape, mathematically, as a seashell. How elegant. Isn't that elegant? The universe is so amazing and beautiful and wonderful."

To submit a science question for the *Quirks and Quarks* broadcast on the University of Alberta campus, e-mail it directly to [quirks@cbc.ca](mailto:quirks@cbc.ca) or go to <http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/quirks/> and click on 'Contact Us.' The live broadcast will be hosted at the Timms Centre for the Arts June 1, from 7:30 – 9 p.m. Admission is free. The Timms Centre's capacity is 300 so come early to reserve your seat. ■

# Art imitating medical science

Program highlights the arts and humanities in health care

By Ryan Smith

Every year for the past four years, participants in the University of Alberta Arts in Medicine Medical Student Club have chosen a disease or a health condition and then created artwork to express their feelings about it. This year the students produced paintings, sketches, poetry and videos that focused on eating disorders.

"It forces you to explore and do some self reflection," said Jennifer Rauw, a second-year U of A medical student. "And that's important, because it will help you relate to patients and all the issues they're going through, and I think that makes you a better doctor."

The success of this and other medical student clubs, such as the medical student jazz band, along with a recognition of the importance of the humanities in health care, has led to a broader initiative at the U of A to ensure that all medical students will have opportunities to develop the left sides of their brains as well as the right sides.

The Arts and Humanities in Medicine and Health Program in the U of A Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry will co-ordinate and promote a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities to help develop well-rounded health care providers. World-renowned scholars Dr. Rita Charon and Dr. Arthur Frank launched the program Monday with public lectures

"By participating in arts and humanities courses and activities, students, residents and faculty will have an opportunity for reflecting on their practice, and they will have an enhanced opportunity for developing meaningful connections with patients, families and other health care practitioners."

— Pamela Brett-Maclean

at the Bernard Snell Hall Theatre in the University of Alberta Hospital.

"By participating in arts and humanities courses and activities, students, residents and faculty will have an opportunity for reflecting on their practice, and they will have an enhanced opportunity for developing meaningful connections with patients, families and other health care practitioners," said program co-director Pamela Brett-Maclean, a PhD candidate.

Not only does providing more opportunities for medical students to explore the arts help to produce better doctors, it also helps to produce healthier doctors, said Jack Chiu, a second-year medical student and co-leader of the U of A Medical Students' jazz band, Syncopé.



Students Nick Graham, Ahmar Khan, Jack Chiu and Darrin Leung take a break from their studies to jam.

"It's important to live a balanced, healthy life in order to be a caregiver for others," Chiu said. "And it's good to enjoy your career, but there's more to a person's life than a career."

"The medical profession can be demanding and stressful, so it's important to have an outlet," he added. "Music allows me to express myself in a positive way." ■

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## Institute takes a closer look at our neighbours to the south

*U of A home to new U.S. policy studies institute*

By Ryan Smith

"Given the importance of the U.S. for Canada in general, and Alberta, in particular, I think it very fitting that a U.S. studies institute should be based at the University of Alberta," said Dr. Daniel Woolf, dean of the Faculty of Arts, one of the four U of A faculties that will be involved in the new Institute for United States Policy Studies, along with Law, Business and Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.

The purpose of the Institute, which was officially launched earlier this month, is to encourage analysis and discussion of the policies and policy processes of the United States. It will promote the study and dissemination of research results on U.S. policy issues through lectures, conferences and publications. The Institute will draw together the expertise of researchers from the University of Alberta, as well as from Canada, the U.S. and other countries.

"There is a need for a better understanding of the United States," said Dr. Connie Smith, acting director of the new institute. "It's hugely important. They're ten times the size of Canada, we share a 6,000-km border and about 80 per cent of our exports go there, so try to imagine developing policy in Canada without paying attention to what's going on down there. The United States is there, it's big and it's the largest economy in the world, and there are a lot of opportunities, and I think that we would want to take advantage of that."

"It will also help because we actually have a number of people who already do research in the area, but we really haven't provided an institutional focus. This will allow us to have that," said Woolf. Participants hope their research will be taken seriously by Canadian policy makers, he added. "I'm not sure about American

"They're ten times the size of Canada, we share a 6,000-km border and about 80 per cent of our exports go there, so try to imagine developing policy in Canada without paying attention to what's going on down there."

— Dr. Connie Smith

policy makers. As you say, they're the elephant and we're the beaver. But I would hope that we would be able to provide a kind of focus for considered policy decisions toward the U.S., which really need to be developed in response to what's in the best interests of Canada, but also where U.S. policy in general is going."

To support collaboration with scholars from the U.S., the Faculty of Arts has committed to the annual funding of a Fulbright scholar who will affiliate with the Institute, said Smith.

"The Canada/U.S. Fulbright agreement that will be signed today will provide funding for one American researcher to come to the University of Alberta for approximately one academic semester and to undertake research here and lecture," Smith said.

Research at the institute will cover a broad spectrum of issues that link our two countries, from U.S. federal politics, commerce, law and environmental policy to agriculture, health, immigration and security, Smith added.

Part of the institute's mandate is to share the gathered information, not only with Canadian policy-makers, but with the Canadian public, Woolf said.



Dr. Dean Woolf

"That's part of the idea. We have lots and lots of knowledge but we need to get it off the campuses and into circulation," he said. "I think that President Indira Samarasekera's vision of connecting communities is spot-on in this regard. This is just one of several connections we can provide in terms of disseminating information and knowledge to a public that is obviously very interested in matters that go on in the U.S. and that have a very real effect on life here, things like trade, commerce, mad cow or softwood lumber, or something as basic as how do I get across the border."

The U of A's launch of the Institute for United States Policy Studies on May 8 included a panel discussion, *Sharing a Continent*, with Naim Ahmed, U.S. Consul-General, Calgary, Amira de la Garza, acting director of the North America Center for Transborder Studies in Arizona, Michael Hawes, executive director of the Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program, and Jeffrey Simpson, the national affairs columnist at *The Globe & Mail*. ■

# Learning in the context of research

***U of A summit explores ways to create a more dynamic learning environment for undergraduates***

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Each year, post-secondary institutions across Canada collectively receive approximately \$3 billion in research funding. But while research speeds ahead, producing new discoveries and knowledge, some people are asking how this funding translates into a better learning environment for undergraduate students across Canada.

In its second year, the summit is the first of its kind to examine these issues. When the inaugural summit was launched last year, U of A Vice-President Research Dr. Gary Kachanoski stressed the importance of addressing the issue.

"Universities do research in the context of education. So the dual mandate of education and research has always been present," he said. "But given the huge investment in the research side over the past 10 years, the question that comes up is, are we doing as good of a job as we can ensuring that our research is connected to education?"

Post-secondary education is no longer seen solely in terms of professors transmitting knowledge through lectures to passive learners. It is increasingly associated with integration of teaching, learning and research, a subject that has gained increasing attention in recent years both internationally and at the U of A.

For University of Edinburgh professor Dr. Carolin Kreber, a keynote speaker at the U of A's second annual Canadian Summit for the Integration of Teaching, Research and Learning earlier this month, there are several reasons for this shift in thinking.

The present landscape of post-secondary education is one explanation. Today's student bodies are diverse, and include an increasing number of women and international students, for instance. And because of the high cost of post-secondary education, many students are strapped for cash.

"Students now have to work if they live in the province of Alberta," she said.

"Consequently, undergraduates are becoming far more vocal about what they expect in an undergraduate program."

Since more students attend university in the hopes of securing well-paying jobs in a competitive marketplace, they demand better preparation for the work world. And because students have the option of attending smaller colleges or technical schools, universities fight to offer the best post-secondary experience. Research can be an important difference between university and college, she said.

Additionally, government agencies are increasingly pressuring universities to cater to the demands of the marketplace, she said.

Kreber believes universities need to recognize the reality of the political and social landscape and develop programs accordingly. And in her view, enhancing education with research-based activities not only helps students develop skills for the job market, but provides opportunities for personal growth.

"There's the agreement that students... change in their epistemological views as they participate in higher learning," she said.

Kreber explains that as a result of their schooling, students come to see knowledge in more mature terms.

But creating an environment that successfully integrates teaching and research requires a two-fold strategy.

"I suggest that meaningful synergies between teaching, research and learning could be achieved by combining two kinds of research-based teaching," she said.

Universities should first supplement student instruction with research-like activities, such as community service learning programs (which the U of A has imple-

mented, through the Faculty of Arts).

Secondly, the organization and design of teaching must be informed with knowledge of how students learn.

"I think integration of teaching, learning and research is not complete if we leave out pedagogical inquiry," she said. "The challenge then for universities is to broaden the deeply entrenched view that scholarship is about advancing knowledge of a discipline, to understand scholarship more broadly."

The U of A is taking this challenge seriously. This year's Canadian Summit for the Integration of Teaching, Research and Learning, was held at the U of A from May 4-6, 2006, and focused on how the three concepts can be better integrated.

In its second year, the summit brought together more than 150 professors, administrators and student leaders from across the country, including keynote speakers from the UK and Australia, in the hopes of facilitating dialogue.

"It's an issue that post-secondary education institutions from across the country are trying to grapple with right now," said Brad Wuetherick, summit co-ordinator.

"And it's a very important question for how we move in Canada in terms of our higher education, particularly as universities have more and more research money coming into them; it becomes more impor-

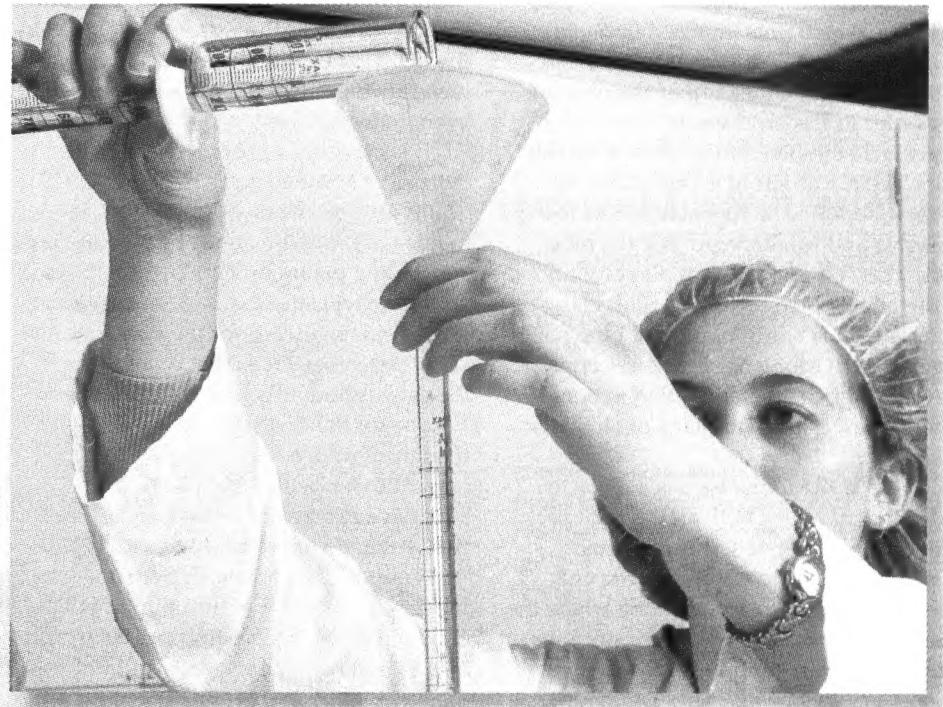
tant for us to understand how we can make sure that research is benefiting the learning environment."

The numbers themselves speak volumes. The U of A, received roughly \$55 million in sponsored research funding compared to \$350 million in operating revenue in 1979-80. By 2004-05 that had closed to \$415 million in research funding compared to \$475 million in operating revenue. In fact, this proportional increase in research funding is a trend occurring at universities nationwide.

This year, the conference focused on best practices, a topic that U of A Vice-President (Research) Dr. Gary Kachanoski says is critical.

"Whether it's the Senate task report on the quality of undergraduate programs, or whether our own academic plan which has listed the undergraduate experience or the integration of teaching and research explicitly as objectives we want to do, the question is how are we going to do this?" he said.

"How are we going to do a better job of ensuring that the significant investment that's being made in research is also then impacting in a demonstrable way the learning of students, in particular the undergraduate students?" ■



**"The challenge then for universities is to broaden the deeply entrenched view that scholarship is about advancing knowledge of a discipline, to understand scholarship more broadly."**

— Dr. Carolin Kreber

## Could Montenegro's referendum be the last phase of the Yugoslav dissolution?

Results will have ripple effect beyond the Balkans

By Dr. Srdja Pavlovic

Montenegro is a tiny Balkan country. Its population of 612,000 is a mix of various Slavic and non-Slavic nations. It is also a land of Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Catholicism, Islam and Judaism. Its full-bodied red wine, Vranac, is considered among the best in the region. Its epic poetry and stories about proud highlanders resisting the Ottomans for centuries is the essence of the collective memory of its people. Montenegro entered the popular imagery of the West as a homeland of a mysterious and secretive fictional character Nero Wolf and as the final resting place of the Jewish false prophet, Sabbatai Zvi.

At present, Montenegro is the smaller partner in a dysfunctional state called the Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Until the end of the First World War in 1918, both Montenegro and Serbia existed as independent and sovereign states. In December 1918 the first common South Slavic state was established. Serbia became its focal point, while Montenegro disappeared from the map and entered the newly created Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes as an integral part of Serbia. At the end of the Second World War, both Serbia and Montenegro became two of six constituent elements of the newly formed communist state. This new communist Yugoslavia lasted for 45 years thanks, in part, to the ideological restraints imposed upon its republics.

Following the breakup of the communist order in Eastern Europe, the former Yugoslavia dissolved in a series of bloody wars. What was left of it was called the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro. For the most part, it served as a political playground of the late Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic. It is worth noting that the political change in Montenegro in 1989 came on the wings of greater Serbian nationalism and under the patronage of Slobodan Milosevic.

Since 1997 Montenegro is a de facto independent entity, with all the necessary signifiers of statehood. It is important to mention that Montenegro is the only political entity in eastern Europe where the power structure did not change since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Its first post-communist prime minister, Milo Djukanovic, is still in charge of the Montenegrin government. Despite a few cosmetic changes of the political landscape in Montenegro, such as shaky coalition governments between the seemingly different Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), leaders of the 1989 movement maintain a firm grip on power in a manner typical for their communist predecessors.

On May 21, the citizens of Montenegro, are going to vote in a referendum on their country's independence. This might be the beginning of the end of the Yugoslav breakup that started in the early 1990s. The upcoming referendum is much more than an attempt to settle a local issue. Its outcome could have significant implications

The upcoming referendum is much more than an attempt to settle a local issue. Its outcome could have significant implications for the entire western Balkans.

for the entire western Balkans.

Judging by the diplomatic signals coming from Brussels, the European Union (EU) dreads the prospects of further fragmentation in the Balkans and of a possible domino effect that might destabilize southeastern Europe. If Montenegro leaves the union with Serbia, and if the southern Serbian province of Kosovo follows suit, what is to stop the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina from seeking independence? By the same token, what is to stop the fragmentation of Macedonia, since both Greece and Bulgaria claim the rights to its territory? The list of potential hotspots goes on and on. Many argue that such "balkanization" of the southeastern European political space would slow down the integration of the western Balkans into the EU. That is why the Montenegrin referendum on independence is an important event indeed.

It is certainly a crucial event for the citizens of Montenegro. The ruling coalition is leading the movement for independence while the opposition parties are supporting the union with Serbia. If the 'Yes' vote wins the day, Montenegro would regain independence for the very first time since December 1918. That would mean the establishing of a new state in eastern Europe for the first time since 1991. If, on the other hand, a 'No' vote prevails, the current union with Serbia would survive, albeit in a somewhat different form, and the likelihood of establishing a strong unitary state dominated by Serbia would indeed be great. All of the opinion polls conducted in Montenegro since 2000 indicate that the independentists and unionists were separated by no more than four – five per cent at any given time.

A 'Yes' vote would put a legal stamp of approval on the situation on the ground. Very few, if any, of the politicians in the region would dispute the fact that the current Union of Serbia and Montenegro is anything but an empty shell. Many people in Montenegro support independence (46 – 49 per cent) but those percentages might not be high enough to win the approval of the international community. Because of its many faults and due to the pressure from the EU administration, the Montenegrin government recently adopted a new referendum law. According to this legislation, the results of the referendum are valid only if 55 per cent of eligible voters cast their

votes in favour of one of the options.

A 'No' vote is favoured by a large number of people in Montenegro (40 – 45 per cent) as well. It is a preferred outcome for the politicians in Belgrade. Such outcome of the Montenegrin referendum would pave the way for a new and strong unitary state. The problem is that the sole point of contact for a rather fragmented unionist movement is their desire to prevent Montenegro from becoming independent once again. They have no plan for "the day after" or for a much-needed restructuring of the non-functioning union. With that in mind, the 'No' vote would support yet another failed state-building experiment in the Balkans.

Caught between these two magnet poles is some 10 - 12 per cent of the electorate that abstained from voting in the last decade or so. They are justifiably concerned over the rampant corruption in Montenegro and the deeply criminalized structures of power. While leaning towards the independentist option, these voters are unable to solve fundamental issues of every country in transition – how to achieve their country's independence while ousting the corrupt government from power. What should come first – statehood or democracy?

There exists a deep fault line separating the political rhetoric of the ruling elite and its "adherence" to concepts of rights, liberty, equality or justice, and the shady institutional, technocratic, and autocratic practices that undermine those same con-

cepts. Of course, the world of politics was always complex and filled with dilemmas, party politics, trade-offs and backroom deals. Montenegrin politics is no exception. Many people in Montenegro, however, equate a 'Yes' vote on the upcoming referendum with giving a blank cheque to the current regime. It remains to be seen how this group of voters is going to solve those dilemmas. Both those opposing the independence and those in favor of it are courting this group of voters hoping that their support would help them tip the balance on May 21.

The ruling elite in Montenegro claims statehood is a prerequisite for a successful integration into Europe. The EU administration in Brussels, meanwhile, wonders how many different and often opposing nationalistic claims it should satisfy before pacifying the troubled Balkans. While the referendum in Montenegro might signal the end game in the former Yugoslavia it could, on a regional level, open up an entirely new political Pandora's Box.

(Dr. Srdja Pavlovic teaches at the Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta, and specializes in the cultural and political history of the South Slavs. He and Killam Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Emilian Kavalski are presenting a panel discussion entitled Balkanization or Europeanization: The Montenegrin Referendum, Serbia, and the Future of the Western Balkans May 18, 3 – 5 p.m. in the Old Arts Building Senate Chamber. Pavlovic can be reached at: srdjapavlovic@yahoo.com . ) ■

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# Volunteer efforts fund cancer research at the U of A

**Funding supports research on the body's immune defenses**

By Ileiren Byles

More than \$1 million in research funds from the Canadian Cancer Society (CSS) will go a long way towards helping University of Alberta researchers provide hope for Canadians who've been touched by cancer.

Two U of A researchers, Dr. Hanne Ostergaard and Dr. Michael Hendzel, exemplify the vast spectrum of work that is focused on fighting cancer, said Doug Baker, regional director for the Canadian Cancer Society's Alberta/NWT division. "And we will continue to support their research as long as we have hope."

Hendzel's research is focused on the fundamentals of cell structure. He's studying a very basic protein, actin, which has a profound job – repairing breaks in our DNA. "A better understanding of how this protein works could lead to some important new ways to treat cancer, or even prevent it from occurring in the first place," said Hendzel, who will receive \$411,498 over three years for his work. But he cautioned that Canadians' donations for cancer research will be increasingly important during the next few years.

"The recent Harper budget significantly hinders research. Tax cuts come at a cost and one of those costs could potentially be a future cure for cancer," he said. "There are a lot of untapped intellectual resources in this country, and we may be entering a time of crisis."

Ostergaard will receive \$658,250 over five years to investigate the role of the body's killer T-cells that can kill cancer

"We're all aware of what killer cells can do. If you've ever had a viral infection and survived it, that's your killer cells at work. But isolated killer cells will effectively kill cancer cells in a test tube. And, in the blood of some cancer patients, you can observe killer cells attacking cancer cells. But, for some reason, they just can't keep up with the cancers."

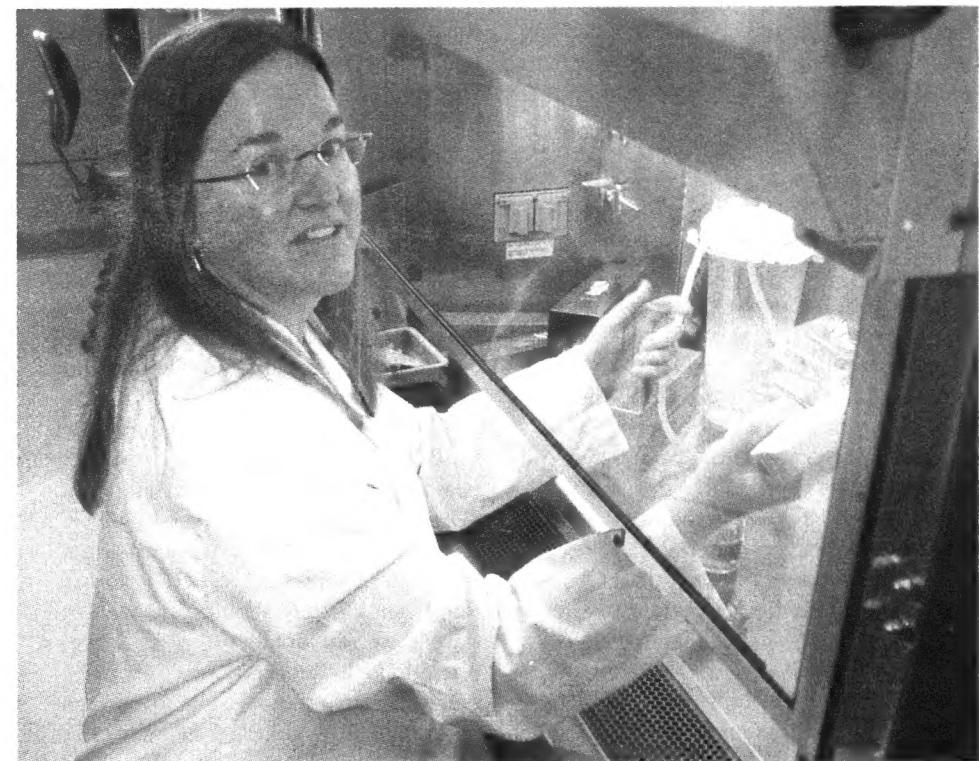
— Dr. Hanne Ostergaard

cells, and ways to make the process more effective.

"We're all aware of what killer cells can do. If you've ever had a viral infection and survived it, that's your killer cells at work," she said. "But isolated killer cells will effectively kill cancer cells in a test tube. And, in the blood of some cancer patients, you can observe killer cells attacking cancer cells. But, for some reason, they just can't keep up with the cancers."

When a killer T-cell detects a tumour cell, it releases special molecules that are able to penetrate and destroy the cell, but this release must be tightly controlled so that surrounding, healthy cells aren't killed as well.

The hope, said Ostergaard, is to develop new treatments that boost the T-cells' cancer fighting potential, or even to create a cancer vaccine. "But we're trying to reverse engineer what goes on in the cell



Dr. Hanne Ostergaard works at the station where she mixes killer T-cells with cancer cells.

without really knowing the cell construct in the first place."

Research like the work that's going on at the U of A provides hope for Canadians like Mildred Thiel, who has beaten cancer not once, but three times in her life. Her first encounter with cancer was when she was 15; she beat it twice while she was in her 30s.

"They say after five years of being cancer free to throw yourself a party and after 10

years throw a big party," she said. "I can tell you I have a humungous party coming up."

Thiel thanked volunteers and researchers for continuing the fight against cancer.

"As a child, I watched TV and was susceptible, as children are, to advertising," she said. "And I remembered this commercial that said, 'Cancer can be beaten.' At 15, I had no doubts that cancer could be beaten and at 30, I was sure." ■

## Laundry can mean life or death

**Report recommends laundry conditions for industrial clothing be better controlled**

By Bev Betkowski

It's one of the dirtiest jobs around, and University of Alberta researchers are hoping to convince workers in the oilpatch to pay more attention to doing their laundry.

Improving their laundering practices will better protect workers against the hazards of wearing dirty or improperly cleaned clothing.

Several times a year, U of A researcher Dr. Jose Gonzalez lays out a newly charred pile of industrial clothing to study in his lab. He tries not to think about the person who was wearing the clothing when it caught fire, but focuses instead on how to make the coveralls and coats safer.

One solution is simple but vital: figuring out the appropriate procedures for laundering – how much detergent, what kind, and which pre-treatment methods, if any, work best. It doesn't sound glamorous, but Gonzalez and Dr. Betty Crown of the U of A Protective Clothing and Equipment Research Facility (PCERF) know that proper care can make a difference in how badly a worker might be burned.

Crown published a study on laundering techniques after a worker wearing flame-resistant (FR) coveralls was exposed to a flash fire and suffered third-degree burns to most of his body. "Was the FR protective clothing inadequate, or had it not been properly cleaned to ensure adequate protection? The degree of cleanliness required to maintain the protective qualities of FR clothing is not well known," Crown said.

The report recommends that laundry conditions for industrial clothing be controlled carefully. Dry cleaning or commercial laundering is recommended for very dirty garments, and for on-site laundry washes in the oilpatch load size and water-detergent-fabric ratio need to be controlled. "Because of the necessity to better control laundry variables, it is recommended that one person be placed in charge of launder-



Dr. Jose Gonzalez with burned clothing from the oilpatch.

ing dirty garments, rather than leaving the task up to individual workers," Crown said.

In Alberta's booming oil and gas industry, keeping workers safe from hazards such as flammable environments is important. Most firms and their workers are very safety-conscious, but many existing laundry practices in the field could be improved greatly, Gonzalez believes. "Guidelines are not well-established. It's not a new issue but people are now becoming more aware of it, because of workplace accidents that are happening."

That, combined with the inexperience of young workers who make up much of the industry's workforce, means education is crucial, even about doing laundry. The advice provided by suppliers of FR clothing usually relates to commercial laundry processes rather than cleaning clothes at

remote work sites.

"Doing the laundry may seem mundane, but even in everyday life there are many factors that help determine its effectiveness in removing dirt. When dirt such as oily contaminants creates a hazard in the workplace, either directly or through reducing the effectiveness of FR clothing, laundering practices become even more important," Crown said. Their research helps save lives.

By conducting research on appropriate laundering for field sites, Crown and Gonzalez hope to educate workers and employers on the most effective ways to care for flame-resistant garments, and to demonstrate the importance of establishing firm guidelines for their use.

Of the burned clothing that comes into Gonzalez' lab for analysis, much of it is dirty enough to have posed a threat. "If the

garment is soiled or is contaminated, the protective properties may be significantly reduced. Oil or grease on a garment may ignite it. It may not fully burn, but it will ignite."

Other hazards include wearing only one or two pieces of protective clothing. In one incident that yielded a pile of badly burned clothing for him to analyze, Gonzalez noted that if the wearer had been completely clothed in flame-resistant protective gear, he would have been safe. "Ideally, everything a worker wears should be flame-resistant, including underclothes."

Another serious hazard is the electrostatic propensity of some FR clothing. Gonzalez points to the example of an oil well fire that broke out near Edmonton in December of 2004, in which static electricity played a role. Even static from sliding across a car seat can spark a fire in the highly-charged atmosphere of a well site.

The kinds of damage he is seeing in work clothing causes him concern about the level of awareness workers may or may not have in the field. "Firms, including contractors, should provide enough clothing so workers can change as required, and workers must be aware that contaminated garments may have significantly reduced protection," Gonzalez said. "There are regulations mandating the wearing of protective garments, but much about their use and maintenance is up to company policy," Gonzalez said. ■

# The start of something good

**Charter Day a reminder of the U of A's history**

By Caitlin Crawshaw

One hundred years ago on May 9, the University of Alberta became more than a twinkle in Alberta's eye when Alberta's Lieutenant-Governor signed the University Act and officially established the institution.

Earlier this month the U of A community recognized the Centennial of this critical legislation, an anniversary dubbed Charter Day.

The celebration was spearheaded by Vice-Provost Ernie Ingles, who noted that, despite the role of Charter Day in the founding of the university, it is a little-known part of U of A history.

"My understanding has been that Charter Day has been in the university calendar for an awfully long time, and you probably have never noticed it, it's one of those little things you wonder about," he said. "I would say that in anybody's estimation, today marks our 100th anniversary."

To celebrate the event, the university today distributed replicas of the University Act and handwritten minutes from early U of A meetings proposing Charter Day as a U of A holiday.

The Act laid down the legal foundation for the university, outlining its function, structure and goals. It established a governing body for the U of A and outlined its powers, as well as indicating some of its values. It created faculties, a registrar and

the establishment of a chancellor, as well.

"It is an important event in our history. It is a day worthy of a general understanding, and I hope we might persuade the community and the academy that this is an important day," Ingles added.

What's more, the Act established some of the U of A's long-standing values. One clause, for instance, states that the university would be non-sectarian, and that "no religious dogma or creed shall be taught and no religious test required of any student or other person."

"Many of the universities in Eastern Canada and Atlantic Canada had their beginnings as religious, sectarian universities and colleges, and (university president) Henry Marshall Tory and (Alberta premier) Alexander Rutherford were determined that this university should not suffer from the same disadvantages . . . they saw that it would be better for a university to be non-sectarian and accessible to everyone regardless of religion," explained U of A archivist Bryan Corbett.

Additionally, another clause states that U of A Senate makes provisions for the education of women.

"Other universities had admitted women to them for study, yet (Rutherford and Tory) were determined that women should have equal access to university



(From left to right) University of Alberta Vice-Provost Ernie Ingles, Registrar Carole Byrne and Chancellor Eric Newell with a reproduction of the first University Act and hand-written minutes from the legislative session that proposed Charter Day.

education."

Following the establishment of the legal foundation, the first university president, Henry Marshall Tory, was hired in November that same year.

The first U of A classes were held in Queen Alexandra School in 1908, and the

Faculty of Arts and Sciences became the first faculty. Slowly, academic staff members were recruited both locally and internationally. Now, from humble beginnings, the U of A has grown to serve more than 36,500 students, with some 9,000 faculty and staff. ■

## Top teachers honoured

**Awards recognize excellence in teaching**

By Richard Cairney

The University of Alberta celebrated Charter Day, the 100th anniversary of the legislation that established the institution, May 9. So it was fitting that it also presented its highest awards for teaching on the same day, in the name of two of the university's founders.

The William Hardy Alexander Awards for Excellence in Sessional Teaching and the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching were awarded to eight of the university's finest teachers, nominated by their peers.

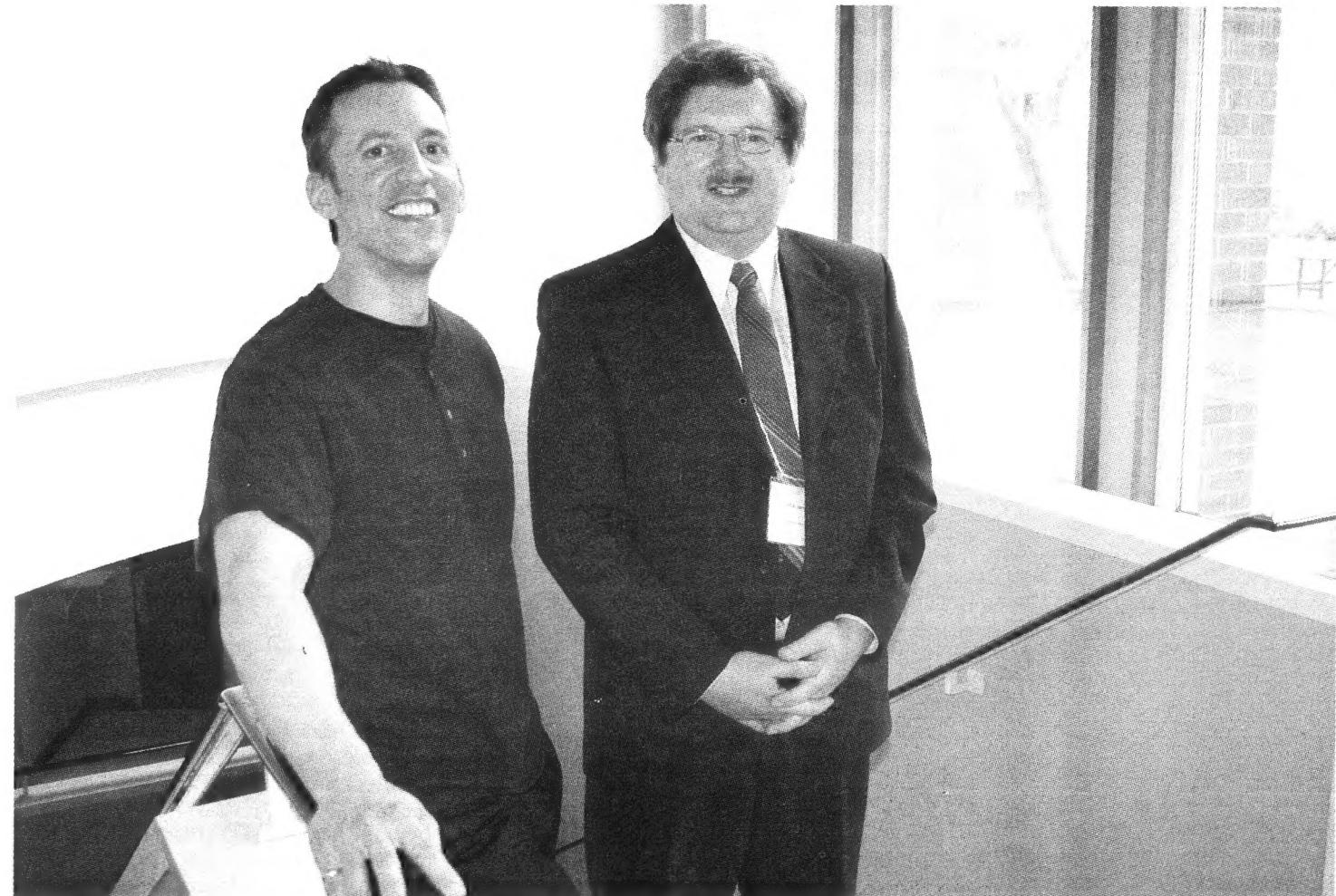
The Rutherford award is named for Alberta's first premier, Alexander Rutherford, who was instrumental in establishing the University of Alberta during the province's first legislative session; the Alexander award is named for W.H. Alexander, the first professor hired at the U of A. A descendent of each family was in attendance.

"It is entirely fitting and appropriate that on this day we celebrate teaching," said Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Carl Amrhein. "It is our core teaching mission that defines us."

Janet Wesselius, from the Department of Philosophy, and Philip Mingay, with the Department of English and Film Studies, were presented with the William Hardy Alexander Awards for Excellence in Sessional Teaching.

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching was presented to Dr. Gerda de Vries, with the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Dr. Scott North, with the Department of Oncology, Dr. John-Paul Himka, in the Department of History and Classics, Dr. Al Meldrum, in the Department of Physics, Dr. Arthur Mar, in the Department of Chemistry and Dr. Claude Couture, with Campus Saint-Jean, the university's French-language faculty.

Each of the recipients made observations on teachers who influenced them, the science and art of teaching and the teaching environment. De Vries described two "teachable moments" of the past year: one occurred during a class in which students challenged her on a problem she presented



Physics Professor Dr. Al Meldrum and Bill Rutherford, grandson of the late premier Alexander Rutherford. Meldrum was one of eight U of A instructors honoured for their teaching expertise on May 9.

them with, drawing on lessons in another discipline.

"It was an opportunity for deep learning and discovery," she said. "But we can't rely upon serendipity; we need to orchestrate similar opportunities."

The other moment came when de Vries took a conference's organizing committee to task for its homogenous make-up.

"As a woman in math I am a minority – I am attuned to the questions of diversity," she said, adding that the two episodes underscored for her the fact that "we all learn and discover valuable lessons in sometimes unexpected ways."

Physics professor Al Meldrum's col-

leagues nominated him for the award because "he conveys the wonder of the subject that he teaches." In accepting his award, Meldrum confessed he was surprised to become so passionate about teaching.

"My first love is research," he said, adding that he has found teaching and research are intertwined.

"Being a good researcher helps you be a good teacher, and students help you learn how to become a good teacher," he said, explaining that some classes he thought went incredibly well fell flat for students, and others, which he felt were poorly delivered, have been hits with students.

The key to finding the right balance, he said, is "caring enough to cross the barrier and see yourself from the perspective of a student – and that's not easy."

Oncology professor North agreed. "I've probably learned more from listening to the students, about what I've done wrong or what I've done badly," he said. "Being a teacher doesn't mean telling students all that you know; it's giving them an opportunity to learn how to learn. One of the dangers is we think this is the only chance we'll get to teach them, and we are going to cram everything we know into 55 minutes and they are going to like it. I think that sometimes, less is more." ■

# Writing 101

## Writing workshop focuses on student motivation

By Dawn Ford

For Toby Fulwiler, the secret to student motivation and writing is simple.

"It's their language, not yours," said the University of Vermont professor emeritus to a room of more than 200 academics and students from across campus attending the preliminary writing workshop hosted by the University of Alberta's new writing task force on April 28.

"A major problem in many of the poor papers we read is that students are trying in one act to generate ideas and in another act to communicate these ideas," added Fulwiler, who has taught hundreds of writing workshops in North America and the UK.

In the generating-ideas process, students need to use their own language freely. According to Fulwiler, this is about uncovering and discovering, before the act of writing to communicate even begins.

"It's really hard not to use your own language. Whenever they are writing to learn, they need to be in non-threatening situations first. They need to use language badly sometimes."

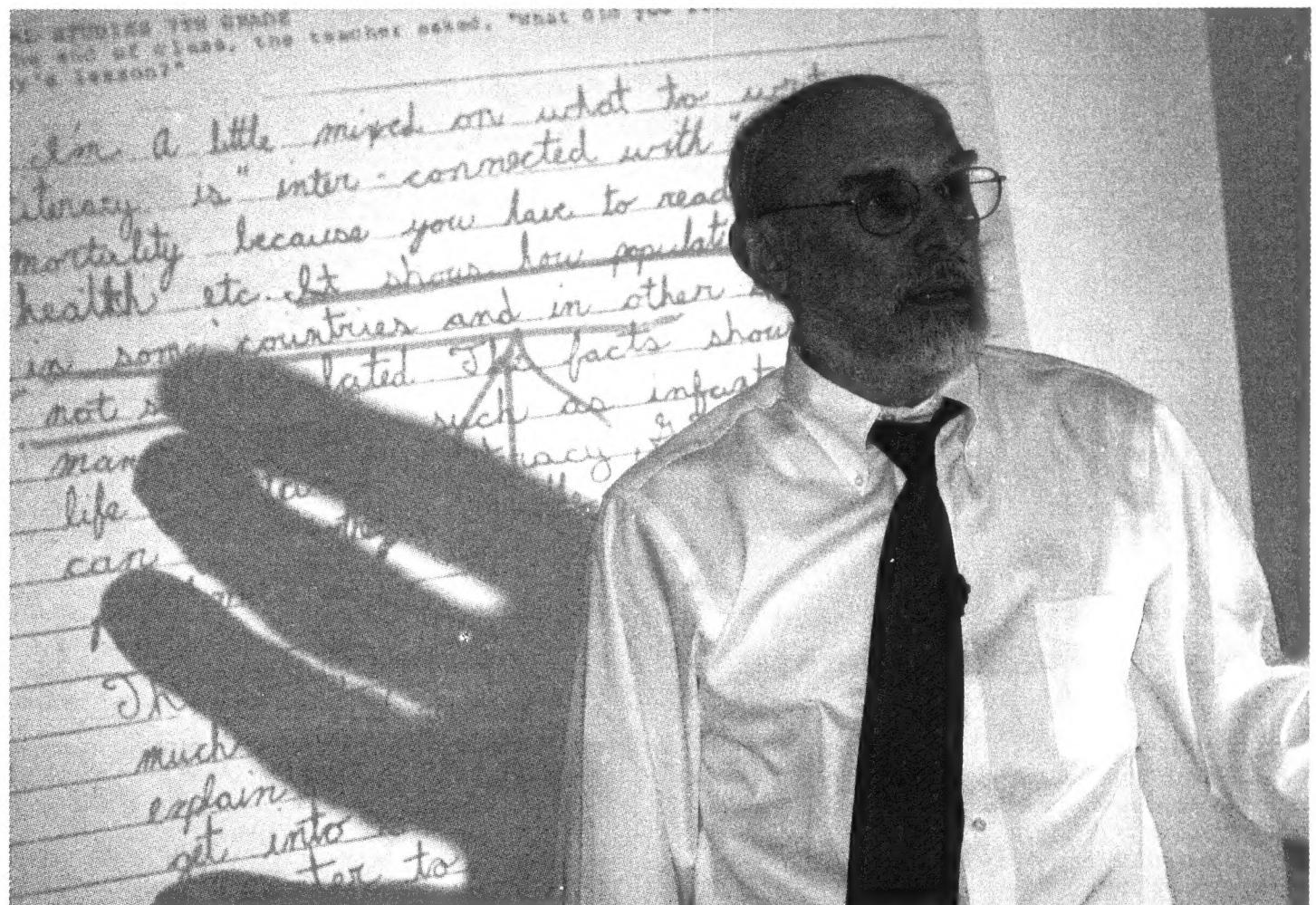
Fulwiler assigned instructors to collective brainstorming and individual writing exercises to explore why writing can be so difficult for students and academics.

"Students don't give themselves enough time to write the first draft before it is due," said one instructor. "They have no sense that writing is a process and that the first draft is only the first step."

In Fulwiler's view, it's precisely during this initial figuring stage that students need freedom to find their own thoughts and put them down, using their own words. He teaches that writing itself is a stage of thinking.

"Writing or drawing an image or thought freezes it in time like a photograph, so it can be viewed critically and manipulated before it vanishes in divergent or digressive new thought," he writes.

One of the biggest problems identified by instructors was that students try hard



Toby Fulwiler, a professor emeritus from the University of Vermont, imparts his knowledge of the writing process to U of A academics and students.

not to write simply and are instead more concerned with how they sound, often using academic language to impress. According to Fulwiler, they are modeling what they think the instructor wants instead of their own thoughts.

And the values and motivations are different for each student.

"Academics choose the topics and make their own assignments. This is a huge difference in values and motivations. For

academics, it's publish or perish. Where is the carrot for the students?" he asked.

According to Fulwiler, the carrot is a class that begins with actions, such as posing a powerful question at the beginning of class, one that draws students in and engages their minds.

"Make a class that generates profound ideas and questions. The answers may be outside of your lecture and you may be unprepared, but put yourself at risk," says

Fulwiler who believes instructors themselves often contribute to writing phobias.

"It's worth reflecting on the model of education that we give them, like me standing up at the head of a class saying things to a room full of students who are listening and copying. We talk too much as instructors when our students, the ones who are less experienced with language, remain passive."

# Grant funds cystic fibrosis research

## U of A researchers explore how antimicrobial peptides can reduce lung infection

By Ileiren Byles

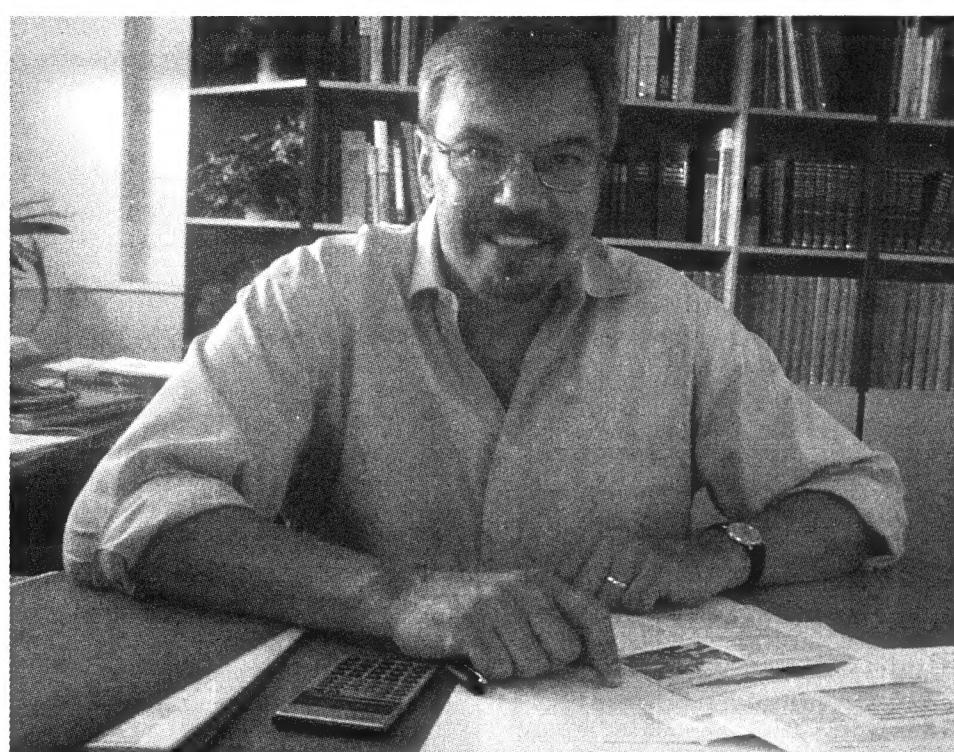
Four University of Alberta laboratories will be sharing their insights and research to examine the role the immune system plays in patients with cystic fibrosis (CF).

Doctors Marek Duszyk, Edan Foley, Randall Irvin and John Vederas will use \$184,651 in Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding over three years to examine models of bacterial lung infection in cystic fibrosis and the effects of therapy with antimicrobial peptides.

"In normal circumstances, inflammation is thought to be a good thing because it fights infection," said Duszyk. "But in cystic fibrosis, inflammation is out of control and it becomes a vicious cycle. It does far more damage than it benefits the host. Being able to downgrade inflammation is thought to be very beneficial, at least in the short term while we don't know how to treat the infected gene."

Duszyk, a professor in pulmonary medicine will work with Vederas, a chemist, and microbiologists Irvin and Foley to find ways to deal with inflammation.

"Dr. Vederas is a chemist who has been interested in antimicrobial peptides for years. He's an expert in this field. He has been synthesizing these peptides for use in the food preservation industry and they're thought to be very antibacterial," said Duszyk. "But while we're very interested in the effects these peptides could have on cystic fibrosis epithelial cells, we also have to determine the effect they'll have on



Dr. John Vederas will collaborate with Drs. Marek Duszyk, Edan Foley and Randall Irvin to study how antimicrobial peptides can reduce inflammation in CF patients.

healthy cells."

Cystic fibrosis is the most common, fatal genetic disease affecting young Canadians. The disease affects primarily the lungs and the digestive system, causing severe breathing problems and hindering the body's ability to absorb nutrients during digestion.

Understanding the role of the immune

system in lung disease is the focus of the new research projects funded through a \$4.5 million partnership between the CIHR Institutes of Infection and Immunity and Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health, AllerGen, a network of Centres of Excellence based at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF). The new

"It could both keep people from needing a lung transplant and it could keep those who are awaiting transplants alive longer. Even after transplantation, patients are often dealing with perpetual inflammation and this treatment could be very beneficial for them."

— Dr. Marek Duszyk

research initiatives were announced just in time for both Allergy/Asthma and Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Months and will focus on developing a better understanding of the ways in which people respond to exposure to infectious agents in the lungs.

While controlling inflammation isn't seen as a potential cure for CF, it could make a big difference in the quality of life of those who live with the disease, said Duszyk.

"It could both keep people from needing a lung transplant and it could keep those who are awaiting transplants alive longer," he said. "Even after transplantation, patients are often dealing with perpetual inflammation and this treatment could be very beneficial for them."



Photos courtesy of Eden North Parachute School

## Free falling

*Jumping from perfectly good airplanes is a family affair for Ron Stonehouse*

By Lee Craig

**A**U of A staffer who dreamed for 35 years of going skydiving before taking that first jump has quickly progressed to jumping solo.

Ron Stonehouse, a 58-year-old senior business analyst in External Relations, took that first leap, along with his daughter and his sister-in-law, on the May long weekend last year.

"My daughter talked my sister-in-law into going and then caught me at a weak moment and said, 'Hey, Dad, are you coming with us?' So I said, 'Sure. What the heck. Why not?' This was not something new — it was just getting around to doing it," said Stonehouse.

The three of them went to the Eden North Parachute School, about 50 km west of Edmonton. It was a pretty nice day, Stonehouse remembered.

The three family members and others in the tandem groups had about a half-hour of training with a tandem master to understand how they would exit the plane, and to understand what to expect. Then there was a practice run and the OK to go.

"About 15 minutes before the jump they put us in a jumpsuit, helmet, goggles, and a special harness that would attach us to the jump master and they led us out to the airplane," said Stonehouse.

"I think I had an adrenaline rush at that point. Was I nervous? Not necessarily. I have been up that high before. I was a pilot — I'm not an active one at this point — so the height didn't scare me. It was more the case that I've never been up that high with an open door."

Stonehouse and his sister-in-law went up together and his daughter and a friend went in the second round.

"They usually have the people who are heavier jump first because they fall a little bit faster and get out of the way a little bit quicker. I was actually the first one out on that jump," said Stonehouse, who was on the ground to see his daughter, Donna, jump.

"It was quite exciting to see her face and hear her comments afterwards."

Skydiving is an experience he thinks everyone should have at least once. With his first solo jump, which he completed in July, as part of the first jump course, Stonehouse enjoyed some truly unforgettable minutes.

"I don't think I can do it justice. It is quiet, but not lonely. You are no longer with any one person once you step out and release from the plane," he said. "It's a time of independence where it's just you and the wind."

One of the most common things people ask when they learn Stonehouse enjoys skydiving is "Why would you like to jump



out of a perfectly good airplane?" and "Why aren't you scared that something could go wrong?"

This fear that some people express to him isn't a factor for Stonehouse. "I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't trust them (the instructors) ... your instincts take over. You know what to do."

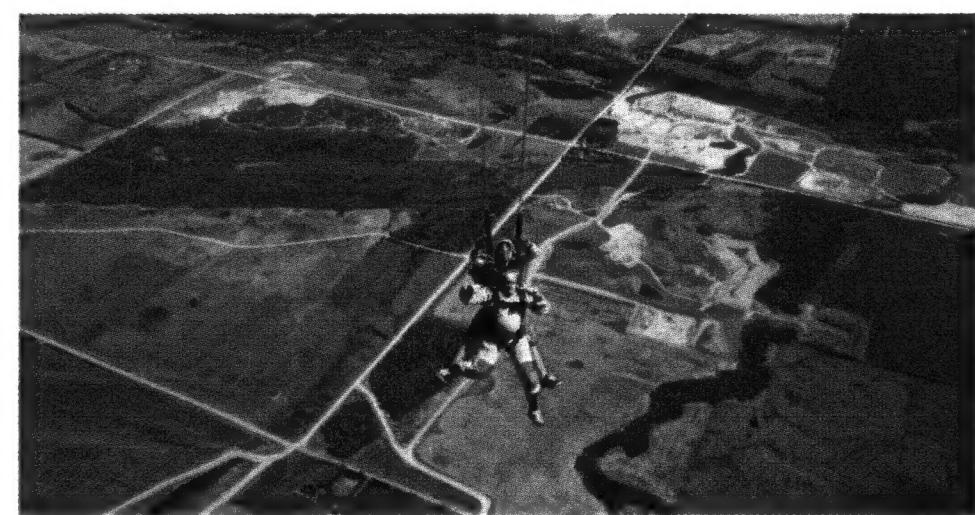
After his tandem jump, Stonehouse took something called the "first-jump course," which allowed him to do a solo jump after five prior jumps. Before he was allowed to do that, he was required to complete a five-hour training course.

"It took us (him and Donna) about four to five weeks to actually get through the course and do the jump itself, just because it was windy or rainy or whatever the case might be that the school might not be open."

The course taught them all the requirements of skydiving: what you need to look for to see if the parachute has opened properly, whether you can control it, how to land safely, and all the things you have to think about as part of an emergency procedure.

Stonehouse emphasized that these procedures become second nature.

"You've got to be able to recognize problems (such as a non-functioning parachute or twisted lines) on the go and make the proper decision about what you are going to do: can you correct it or do you have to do what they call a cut-away — in



U of A business analyst Ron Stonehouse tandem jumps for the first time with an enthusiastic instructor from Eden North Parachute School.

other words, you release your main parachute and go back to your reserve. So that's all practiced on the ground, for anywhere from a half-hour to an hour."

There is also a 100-question exam, which a person has to answer with 100 per cent accuracy before being allowed to jump solo.

Stonehouse wishes he had gone skydiving earlier in life and is always disappointed if weather conditions prevent jumps on the days he goes out. He appreciates that skydiving shows those who do it that they can rely on themselves.

"It's a good thing for me to do," he said, "at my age and with a bad right knee."

His family has been very supportive, he

said. His wife, Madeline, enjoys going out to the school to watch his and Donna's jumps.

"She's a second set of eyes and that helps me to improve," he said, adding that videos are a large part of training.

Stonehouse's parents seemed shocked when they heard what he was doing, he said, but they have come out to watch.

"My dad said he would love to do a tandem jump, but he can't because of a medical condition."

Stonehouse, who has worked in External Relations since 1997, is aiming at earning his Class A certificate, which requires, among other things a minimum of 25 jumps and 10 minutes of free fall. ■

# Professor's chemistry earns Humboldt Award

*International award recognizes life-long achievement in science*

By Tom Murray

Dr. David Bundle sounds tired. Lately the chemistry professor has been flying back and forth between Edmonton and Germany, where he and other researchers have been collaborating on a project involving different aspects of carbohydrates – dry work to some, but essential. Bundle has recently been awarded the prestigious Humboldt Award from the non-profit German foundation of the same name, recognizing his continuing endeavors in this area.

The award recognizes lifetime achievement. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation promotes international research co-operation, allowing scholars to spend extended periods of research in Germany.

"The foundation supports research in collaboration with German scientists," explained Bundle, who also serves as director of the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science here in Edmonton. "The centre itself has quite a reputation, and there's an interest in Germany about collaborating and building relationships on specific projects because of this."

It's a perfect fit, because a great deal of Bundle's research has been done in conjunction with European scientists, and it allows him to associate with experts in the field and keep up with the latest breakthroughs. It's also helped Bundle continue his fruitful collaboration with Hugh Willison, a neurology professor at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

"I've been working with him for years to find a way to treat conditions that arise from a disease called Guillain-Barre syn-

drome," Bundle said. Guillain-Barre is a disorder characterized by the way it causes symmetrical paralysis and loss of reflexes, usually starting in the legs. "It occurs after somebody's had food poisoning, and is usually associated with an anaerobic bacterium called campylobacter."

According to Bundle, the bacteria "expresses" carbohydrates on the surface that are similar to the carbohydrates on some of the body's nerve junctions, called gangliocytes. "Some of the patients who've had them develop antibodies against these carbohydrates. It's believed that these antibodies bind the gangliocytes that occur at nerve junctions. They impair the impulses, so you get paralysis, or in some cases death."

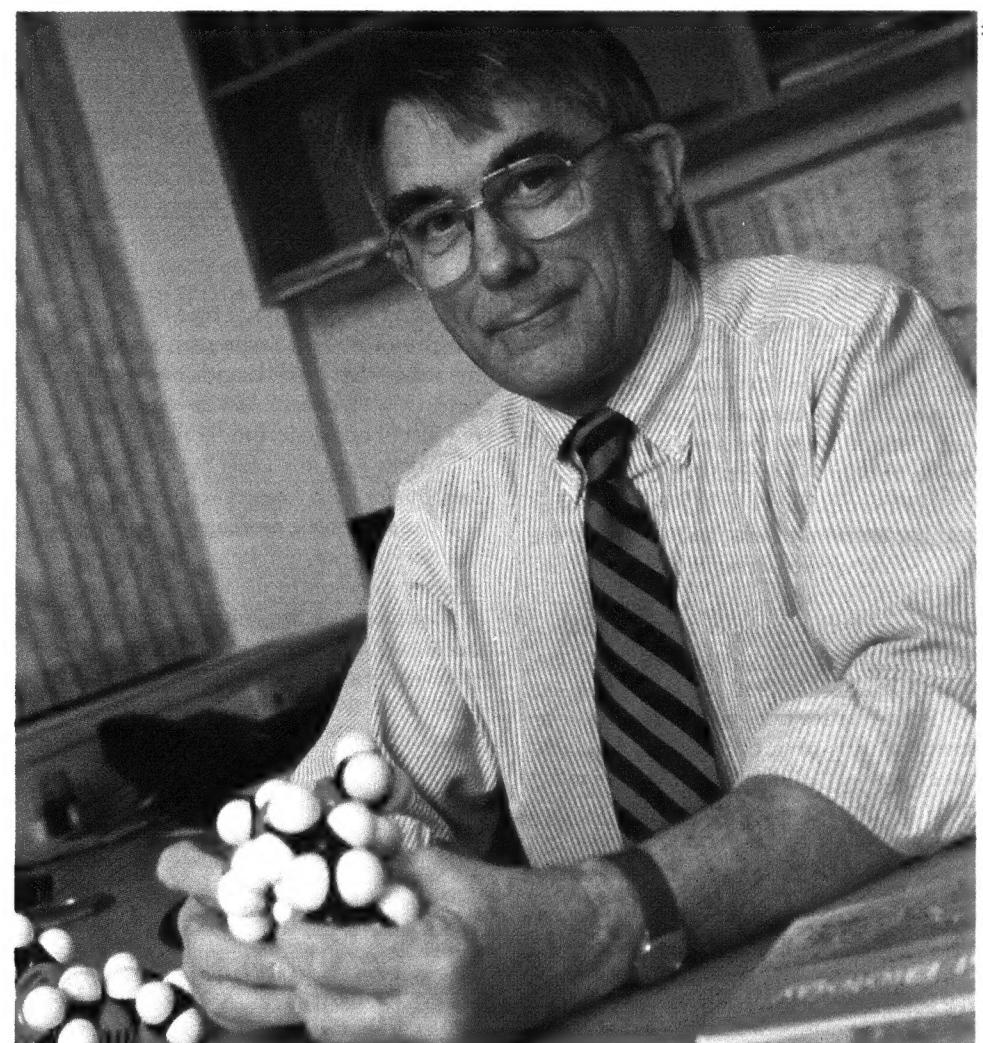
The disease is rare – the incidences are only about 10 in a million.

"But for people who are infected it can mean severe death or hospitalization and intensive care."

There isn't much in the way of treatment for this disease. One option is to try and remove as many antibodies as one can from circulation.

"This is rather crude," Bundle said. "Professor Willison and I decided we would try to find the simple carbohydrate sequences that were bound to these antibodies and allow us to remove them. We've identified structures that allow us to remove antibodies from patients."

On his most recent trip overseas Bundle met with Willison and two other researchers to discuss ways they could economically produce the carbohydrates these antibodies will bind to, along with a way in which to immobilize them on a solid.



Dr. David Bundle has snagged the Humboldt Award for his work deciphering a rare disease called Guillain-Barre syndrome.

"The idea is that you make a column through which you pass a patient's blood, remove the antibodies and then return the

blood to the patient. It was quite the successful meeting – we've identified some preliminary research on how to do this."

## Going for the gold

*U of A gearing up for this year's Corporate Challenge*

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Sure, it's not all about winning, but the University of Alberta Corporate Challenge team isn't ready to relinquish the gold.

After two years of snagging first-place overall in its category, as well as in the spirit category, the U of A crew is gearing up for this year's Corporate Challenge, and hopes to defeat its main rivals, the Edmonton School Board, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and Stantec.

"You always look to your competitors; they probably will build stronger teams as well," said U of A Corporate Challenge coordinator Valerie Hunter.

"I know we continually try to take the best out to every event and every competition."

And as the old adage goes, winning isn't everything.

"It's not just about winning, but doing our best, from a good sportsman point of view," added Hunter, who has participated in the power pull competition in past years.

The recipe for success might be difficult to pin down, but Hunter notes that a good proportion of U of A staff members main-

tain a healthy lifestyle.

"Based on what we can see, a lot of people are quite active," she said.

Hunter is quick to add that the games aren't just for extreme athletes.

"You don't even have to be quite athletic. You can participate in eight-ball, table tennis, darts. So, we have all those kinds of events. Even lawn bowling."

In total, there are 22 Corporate Challenge events, plus a number of spirit events. The schedule of events will be available on the U of A's Corporate Challenge website after May 11 (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/challenge/>).

"It's a really great opportunity to get to know people from all over campus and just to see them participate in something that's not work-related," said Hunter.

"It gives them such a balanced lifestyle, because I really think that having an activity outside of work is really healthy for people, whether it is an interest, hobby or something they compete in outside of work."

This year's Corporate Challenge runs May 26 - June 10 at various venues in Edmonton and surrounding area. ■



Some of the members of last year's U of A Corporate Challenge team.

## University of Alberta Communications and Technology Symposium 2006

*Connected Learning*

Date: Friday, May 19, 2006  
Time: 1:00 – 4:30 pm  
Location: TELUS Centre for Professional Development (87 Ave & 111 St)  
Cost: Free Event, Everyone Welcome  
Schedule: 1:00 – Research Poster Session  
2:30 – Lecture

Featuring Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Terry Anderson, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Distance Education, Athabasca University

*"Connected Learning- How Networked Technologies Change the Way We Learn"*

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# Saplings sprout on campus

**Study will use genomics tools to examine how trees sleep**

By Caitlin Crawshaw

More than 1,300 white spruce saplings from Quebec were delivered to the University of Alberta's Department of Biological Sciences loading dock earlier this month for a study that will use genomics tools to better understand how trees sleep.

"We're trying to understand how trees go dormant," said U of A plant physiologist Dr. Janice Cooke, whose study is part of a large-scale project funded by Genome Canada, in partnership with the Alberta Research Council.

"When they go dormant determines how much growth trees experience during summer and it also determines how well they'll be able to withstand the winter."

For the next eight to 11 weeks, Cooke and her team take tissue samples from the 1,332 white spruce trees. After that, Cooke will keep the trees under tightly controlled conditions for the next three years while she studies the genes that control seasonal dormancy.

White spruce trees are the most economically valuable trees, and can be found all over Canada. "In terms of ecosystem integrity, they're a key species," Cooke said.

The study will use genomics tools

"When (trees) go dormant determines how much growth trees experience during summer and it also determines how well they'll be able to withstand the winter."

— Dr. Janice Cooke

including microarrays, a type of gene chip which can analyze tissue samples and show the expression of thousands of genes simultaneously, "which allows us to ask questions not just of one gene, but thousands."

Cooke explained that her work has benefits for both forestry science and industry. The diagnostic markers she's developing, for instance, will help foresters make informed choices in their breeding program.

"We can use these same markers to decide whether trees are well-adapted to their environment," she said, adding that these tools will specifically help scientists in understanding how trees are affected by climate change.

"It's all about understanding how trees grow." ■



Dr. Janice Cooke logs one of the 1,300 white spruce saplings that she'll be studying.

## The back pain battle

**Researchers will study new back pain campaign**

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Olympic gold medalist Catriona LeMay Doan has spent a lifetime training her body to move at lightning-quick speed, and the former speed skater is no stranger to lower back pain.

With many years of training and a gold medal behind her, Doan recalled being struck with an unexpected new challenge

after a particularly hard training session. When she awoke the next morning, the pain rendered movement almost impossible – an experience she found humbling.

"Many athletes, I realized, struggle with pain and back pain throughout their careers," said Doan, who spoke on May 2 at the launch a new education campaign

called Back pain: Don't take it lying down.

With much mental and physical work, Doan overcame her back pain and continued her illustrious career. Now that she's retired, the two-time gold medalist still suffers from back pain, but won't stop doing the things she loves – like chasing after her two-year old.

"None of our lives stand still. Back pain affects 80 per cent of people, but we do have a choice," she said. "At times I get lazy and don't do my little exercises, and I pay for it."

The new campaign is a partnership between a number of community organizations, including the Worker's Compensation Board and the U of A, and it aims to educate the public about the importance of being physically active despite back pain.

"We have a long-standing belief that pain equals harm," explained Dr. Tony Russell, a U of A expert in illness behaviour.

He stressed that it's important for people to work through the pain and maintain an active lifestyle since bed rest – the

traditional prescription for back pain – can actually worsen the condition and lead to disability, as well as lost work hours.

Russell and his colleague Dr. Doug Gross are collaborating with an international team that will assess the impact of the campaign on the public.

"We're studying beliefs and attitudes people have about back pain and seeing if it changes before and after the campaign," said Gross. "We're also studying whether it has an affect on disability."

Gross added that the causes of and cures for back pain continue to mystify researchers after decades of research and despite technological advances that make life easier.

"Back pain and disability from back pain has actually increased as our workload has decreased."

The U of A is at the forefront of back pain research and launched the multi-disciplinary Common Spinal Disorders Research Centre earlier this year, under the direction of Dr. Michele Crites-Battie, Canada Research Chair in common spinal disorders. ■



Olympic speed skater Catriona LeMay Doan has battled back pain throughout her athletic career.

## ADVISORY SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH): Input from the Community

A search for Vice-President (Research) is currently underway. Dr. Gary Kachanowski, Vice-President (Research), has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he will conclude his current term in that position effective June 30, 2007. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Jim Edwards, President Samarasekera has therefore asked for the establishment of an Advisory Search Committee to advise on the selection of a Vice-President (Research).

GFC and Board policy provides that members of the University community have an opportunity to contribute to the search process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of Vice-President (Research); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of Vice-President (Research). An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to the Advisory Search Committee during the search process. The Committee invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions, in confidence, by 4:30 pm, June 2, 2006 to:

President Indira Samarasekera  
c/o Marcia Lang, Secretary to the Advisory Search Committee  
3-1 University Hall  
University of Alberta, T6G 2J9  
phone: (780) 492-4383  
email: [marcia.lang@ualberta.ca](mailto:marcia.lang@ualberta.ca)  
fax: (780) 492-9265

Please note that the membership of the Advisory Search Committee will be confirmed by May 15, 2006 and posted on the President's website at [www.president.ualberta.ca](http://www.president.ualberta.ca).

# talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.** A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca).

## UNTIL NOV 30 2006

**2006 Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Bioengineering** Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Bioengineering, on July 16-19th, 2006, in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme of the conference is "Seeing I to I - Integrity and Integration in Bioengineering." Fantasyland Hotel and Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton, AB. <http://www.bioeng.ca/Events/Edm2006/index.htm>

## UNTIL MAY 20 2006

**Corporate Challenge Blood Donor Challenge** Call 1-888-2-DONATE. Donate whole blood, plasma or platelets as a member of the U of A Corporate Challenge Team. Encourage friends and family to donate, too! Blood Services. [http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/challenge/blood\\_donor.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/challenge/blood_donor.cfm)

## UNTIL MAY 12 2006

**Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy (CCRL): Plan now to Attend the Third International Conference on Speech, Writing and Context August 16 to 18** Dr. Linda M. Phillips, Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy, University of Alberta and Dr. David R. Olson, OISE/University of Toronto invite you to attend. Includes 46 sessions given by speakers from around the world on topics along four strands: relations between early language and literacy, language/culture and second language learning, assessment, and new technologies and pedagogies for language learning. For more information please visit the Canadian Centre for Research on Literacy (CCRL) and click on ICSWC3 in the navigation panel to the right, email: [icswc3@ualberta.ca](mailto:icswc3@ualberta.ca) or telephone Josie at 780-492-4250. Early bird registration ends May 30.

## MAY 12 2006

**Joint Grand Rounds: Patient Safety** Dr. Bob Runciman: How do we measure outcomes in patient safety? 7:15 - 8 a.m. Clinical Sciences 2-117.

**Student response systems: How to use them and how to evaluate them** Student response systems go by many names: clickers; classroom voting systems; personal response systems, and more. In this session we will share strategies and tactics for a) different strategies and tips for using SRSs to improve learning, b) appropriate strategies for assessing such innovations – how can you tell whether it's working? What evidence could help you improve chances for success? Information about the presenter, Dr. Steve Ehrmann, is online at: <http://www.tltgroup.org/about/ehrmann.html>. 9 - 10:30 a.m. Classroom 219, TELUS Centre for Professional Development. <http://utsregistration.ualberta.ca/viewCalendar.jsp>

**Canadian Space Agency Lecture** Dr. David Kendall, Director General, Space Science, Canadian Space Agency, will give a presentation entitled "Advance Knowledge Through Science: Canada's Accomplishments and Vision For Space Science." 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Earth Science Building 3-27.

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Seminar: Series: Discourse Analysis** Dr David Pimm, Professor of Mathematics Education, Dept of Secondary Education: "Issues of Form and Content in Discourse Analysis." 2 - 3:30 p.m. 122 Education South. <http://www.quasar.ualberta.ca/cpin/upcoming.htm>

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Seminar: Discourse Analysis** Curriculum and Pedagogy Institute Seminar series presents: Issues of Form and Content in Discourse Analysis. Presenter: Dr David Pimm (Professor of Mathematics Education) Department of Secondary Education All are welcome! Refreshments will be provided. 2:00 p.m. 122 Education South Education Centre. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education//pdfs/CPIInWinter2006rev.pdf>

## MAY 13 2006

**In Search of Identity, Longing for Homeland: Research Meeting to Unveil a four-Year Study on African Women Immigrants** a four-year SSHRC funded research on African women in Alberta will be unveiled to community leaders and immigrant serving agencies at the University of Alberta. The first of its kind, in scope and focus, the study has come up with a rich data bank for those who provide services to this immigrant group as well as researchers in the field. Dr. Phil Okeke, an associate professor in the Women's Studies Program of the U of A and the principal investigator in the study, hopes that discussions of the findings among invited delegates would also point to future research directions. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lister Hall, Conference Complex.

## MAY 13 - 14 2006

### CPI Bioinformatics for Proteomics Tutorial

Over the course of two days, students will learn a wide variety of topics and subjects including: protein feature identification, proteome annotation, webtools for proteomics, mass spectrometry and proteomics, Mascot and mass spectrometry, protein interactions and interaction databases, systems biology and chemical biology, and cellular simulation. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Room 2-19, Computing Science Centre, University of Alberta. <http://cpicanada.org/index.php?tutorials>

## MAY 14 2006

**Mother's Day Tea** Come and enjoy a delectable selection of teas, scones and strawberry shortcake, with your mother. Make sure that you also make time to take a stroll through the Garden to see what is blooming! It is her day – make sure that you spoil her! Regular admission rates apply. There is a cost of \$5.00 per person for the tea, which is payable at the Buttercup Bristo (Patio Concession). There is limited space available, please register by calling (780) 987-0362. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

## MAY 15 2006

**2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series - 3 Lectures** 2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series Lecture 1: De Novo Protein Design. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. E1-60 Chemistry East.

**Department Seminar** Dr. Elizabeth Edwards, Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, University of Toronto, will present a seminar entitled "Anaerobic microbial transformation of groundwater pollutants: from genomes to solutions." Hosted by Dr. Phillip Fedorak. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. [http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news\\_events/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/news_events/)

**EG King Lecture** The Department of Medicine is extremely pleased to announce that Senator Michael Kirby will deliver the EG King Lecture on May 15th. The title of his talk is "The Future Shape of Canada's Health Care System." All are welcome to attend. 5 - 6 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall. <http://www.departmentofmedicine.ualberta.ca>

## MAY 16 2006

**2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series - 3 Lectures** 2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series Lecture 2: Design of mimics of alpha-helices. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. E1-60 Chemistry East.

**The Cell Biology Students' Association Presents: 2006 NEB Cell Biology Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series** Dr. Gary M. Bokoch Professor, Department of Immunology and Department of Cell Biology The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA Title of Talk: GEF-H1, a microtubule-linked Rho GEF regulating cell division and motility" RECEPTION to follow in SUB Alumni Room. 4 - 5 p.m. Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC) E1-003. <http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology>

## MAY 17 - MAY 18 2006

**2006 Canadian Blackboard Conference** The Canadian Blackboard Community (CBbC) is made up of teachers, learners and technology professionals devoted to finding ways to enhance education through the use of the Blackboard Academic Suite. The 2006 Canadian Blackboard Conference will focus on the recent merger between Blackboard and WebCT and future direction. We are pleased to welcome Todd Gibby, VP Operations (Blackboard) and Peter Segall, VP Education Strategy (WebCT) to deliver our key note address. If you are an administrator or user of WebCT we invite you to the CBbC conference to help us merge ideas to enhance education. Fostering and sustaining community is a vital component to making advances in the area of eLearning and for delivering quality in the educational experience. 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. University of Alberta, School of Business, Stollery Centre. <http://www.bbconference.ca>

## MAY 17 2006

**2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series - 3 Lectures** 2005-2006 Reuben Benjamin Sandin Lecture Series Lecture 3: Analysis, Prediction, and Design of Membrane Proteins. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. E1-60 Chemistry East.

**Lunch and Learn: Flowerbed Planting Layout & Design Ideas** Whether you are caring for a bed at the university or preparing your garden at home, gardening is a great way to be active. Discover techniques for preparing your flowerbed(s) and get ideas for the layout and

design of your flowerbed(s). 12 - 1 p.m. CAB 229. <http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca/welcome.jsp>

**PHS Grand Rounds** Guest Speaker: Dr John F P Bridges, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy & Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA "Who Cares about the Patient's Point of View Anyway: A German Perspective." 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

**Daring to Will the Future: Introducing the City-Region Studies Centre** This forum will explore ways in which the university, civic agencies, and community groups can facilitate further collaboration through the creation of the City-Region Studies Centre. It is anticipated that a variety of core research themes will emerge through the multi-disciplinary presentations and discussion on the current state and future needs of our urban regions. RSVP required. 2 - 6 p.m. University Extension Centre, 8303 - 112 St., Room 3-40.

**Education in Post-Apartheid South Africa: A commitment to Service Learning** The Department of Occupational Therapy presents guest Auldeen Alsop, Professor and Director of the School of Occupational Therapy at Sheffield Hallam University in the United Kingdom. Dr. Alsop will provide an overview of personal experiences in South Africa, discuss the concept of civic responsibility and community engagement and describe educational strategies to support students in service learning, including educational experiences such as commonwealth fellowships. 2 p.m. Corbett Hall Room 2-07.

**Engineering Generations Reception** Join Dr. David Lynch as he unveils the new Engineering Generations wall which will highlight the many families who have multiple U of A Engineering graduates. This celebration is by invitation only for the more than 160 families, and more than 470 individuals whose names will appear on the Engineering Generations wall. 7 - 9:15 p.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC). <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

## MAY 18 2006

**Investment in an Open Economy: Aggregate and Sector Level Estimates, and an Application to Comparative Investment Rates in Canada and the US.** Institute for United States Policy Studies/Department of Economics Joint Workshop. For more information, contact Dr. Constance Smith at [constance.smith@ualberta.ca](mailto:constance.smith@ualberta.ca)

**Department of Medicine Research Day** The Department of Medicine will hold the 2006 Research Day in the Tiered Classroom at the Telus Centre. Special guest adjudicator will be Dr Alexander Sorisky from the Ottawa Health Research Institute. Oral presentations take place from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Posters will be on display in the foyer and will be adjudicated from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Telus Centre. <http://www.departmentofmedicine.ualberta.ca>

**Microlyne: Nanotechnology in Action** Come tour the U of A spin-off company which has become a world leader in the development of miniature devices (MEMS) used in telecommunications, auto manufacturing and biotechnology. See how these lab-on-a-chip devices are designed and manufactured in class-ten clean rooms! 10 - 11:30 a.m. Meet on campus and travel to Microlyne as a group (campus location to be determined). <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/alumnieducation/nav01.cfm?nav01=45615>

**School-based obesity prevention: A blueprint for change** You are cordially invited to attend a presentation by Tom Baranowski PhD, a leading scholar in behavioural nutrition in children. Dr. Baranowski is a professor of pediatrics and leader of the Behavioral Nutrition group with the USDA-funded Children's Nutrition Research Center, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. The talk is jointly sponsored by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and the Alberta Centre for Active Living. 10 - 11:30 a.m. E120 Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre. [www.physedandrec.ualberta.ca](http://www.physedandrec.ualberta.ca)

**Nursing Rounds** Dr. Jo Lamba: Ethno-cultural differences in leaving home: Delayed, emerging, or normal adulthood. Nursing Rounds is a weekly event in the Faculty of Nursing. All faculty, students and clinicians are invited. Bring your lunch. 12 - 12:45 p.m. Clinical Sciences 6-107. <http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/homepage.nsf/website/nursing+rounds>

**Europeanization or Balkanization: Montenegrin Referendum, Serbia, and the Future of the Western Balkans** Discussion of the upcoming referendum on independence in Montenegro, and the dynamics of European integrations of the Western Balkans. 3 - 5 p.m. Senate Chamber, Old Arts Building, University of Alberta.

## MAY 18 - 27 2006

**Studio Theatre presents One Flea Spare** by Naomi Wallace Set in a virtually bare London room, One Flea Spare sharply focuses on the natural forces induced by the Great Plague upon the human constructs of power, class and gender. The Snelgraves, an upper class couple are about to be released from a month-long quarantine period, but are imprisoned once again when two uninvited visitors, Bunce a sailor and Morse, a surreal all-knowing girl of 12 years old, burst into their home and their lives. Advance tickets available through TIX on the Square 420.1757 or online at [tixonthesquare.ca](http://tixonthesquare.ca). Walk-up tickets available at the Timms Centre Box Office one hour prior to curtain, for that day's performance only. No performance Sunday, May 21, 2006. 8 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/drama/studiotheatre.cfm>

## MAY 19 - 22 2006

**Get Growing Plant Sale** Select from a wide variety of hardy perennials, annuals and native plants. Most seeds are collected from the garden's numerous plant collections and are grown by volunteers. If available, cacti and succulents will also be for sale. Proceeds from the sale contribute to the operation of the garden. Contact visitor services (780) 987-3054 for further information. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

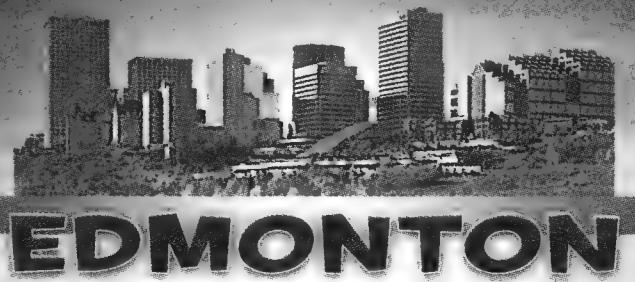
## MAY 19 2006

**Communications and Technology Research Symposium 2006** Join us for the fourth annual communications and technology symposium. Research Poster Session (Refreshments will be served) 1 - 2:30 p.m.; Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Terry Anderson (Professor and Canada Research Chair in Distance Education, Athabasca University) will speak on "Connected Learning: How Networked Technologies Change the Way We Learn" at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Registration is not required. 1 - 4:30 p.m. Telus Centre. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca/mact/>

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**'Not up to the Job?' Women's Resignation and Reshuffles from the Blair Cabinet**  
Presentation by Dr. Sarah Childs, University of Bristol on newspaper coverage of the women who have resigned from, or been shuffled out of, the Blair cabinet. 2 - 3:45 p.m. Business 4-5

**MAY 23, 2006**

**President's Breakfast Roundtable with Faculty** President Indira Samarasekera invites faculty to participate in a breakfast roundtable discussion focused on issues and challenges our faculty face, as well as coming up with bright and creative ideas for enriching the academic experience. Space is limited, so please register early by contacting Jackie Wright. 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

**MAY 24, 2006**

**Professional Presence** Your personal image and the ability to network and communicate effectively can boost your profile and engender stronger alliances and connections for mutual benefit. This session will provide you with some simple strategies to create a commanding first impression, build rapport with others through your professional presences and verbal and non-verbal communication. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://sldregistration.ualberta.ca/displayCourse.jsp?courseid=1408>

**Professional Presence** Cost: \$395 Course fee includes all instruction, all materials, refreshments, & lunch. Your personal image and the ability to network and communicate effectively can boost your profile and engender stronger alliances and connections for mutual benefit. This session will enhance both your personal and professional life by providing you with some simple strategies to create a commanding first impression, build rapport with others through verbal and non-verbal communication, overcome shyness in yourself and others, engage in small talk and take it to big talk, smoothly enter and exit conversations to build successful relationships and dine with finesse. Register at [www.learningshop.ualberta.ca](http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca). 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://sldregistration.ualberta.ca/displayCourse.jsp?courseid=1408>

**APO Committee AGM** APO Committee of the AAS:UA Annual General Meeting 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Council Chambers University Hall.

**Applying for SSHRC Standard Research Grants** This workshop may not unlock the Secret to the Universe but it will help you to understand more about the secrets of applying for SSHRC Standard Research Grants. Members of the SSHRC Adjudication Committees will offer practical tips on how to develop or refine the key components of your SSHRC Standard Grant application. If you're a first time applicant, this is a great place to start. This workshop is open to all researchers on campus. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 122 Education Centre. <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/viewCalendar.jsp>

**Meeting Professionals International (MPI) - Luncheon** LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION...It's our time to shine! MPI Edmonton Chapter is delighted to showcase the University of Alberta and invite you to bring a fellow meeting planner to this informative luncheon. If you are planning a special event, graduation, convention/conference or just a meeting...you must attend! Two hours filled with great ideas to help you get started. Come early and reap the benefits of networking opportunities. Luncheon Guest Speaker: Martin Sawdon Lunch, door prizes and fun included in admission. Bring a friend or colleague and enter to win! To purchase a ticket, please contact: MPI by email: [cheryl@pivotalevents.ca](mailto:cheryl@pivotalevents.ca) 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. U of Alberta Conference Centre- Maple Leaf Room - Lister Centre. <http://mpiweb.org>

**Lunch and Learn: Campus Recreation Programs** Learn about the amazing fitness facilities and multitude of health, physical fitness and recreation opportunities right here on campus. There is no time better than the present to get active! 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. CAB 229. <http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca/welcome.jsp>

**PHS Grand Rounds** Dr Glenn Griener, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences and Department of Philosophy; John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre "Privacy, Paranoia, Pandemics & Public Enemies" 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

**Calgary Regional Alumni and Friends Reception** Join other Calgary-area University of Alberta Engineering alumni and friends of the Faculty as we pay tribute to all of you who carry on the great tradition of the U of A Engineer. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire. <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

**MAY 25 - 26 2006**

**Tobacco Reduction Together: Linking Research, Policy and Practice** Tobacco reduction is a dynamic and evolving field. Staying on top of new knowledge and working together will help us achieve positive results in tobacco reduction. This two-day symposium and celebration offers an

opportunity to share ideas, knowledge, and successes and to build partnerships among tobacco reduction stakeholders. 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Westin Hotel Edmonton. <http://www.chps.ualberta.ca/trt.html>

**MAY 25 2006**

**Nursing Rounds** Dr. Priscilla Koop: Family care giving at the end of life. Nursing Rounds is a weekly event in the Faculty of Nursing. All faculty, students and clinicians are invited. Bring your lunch. 12 - 12:45 p.m. Clinical Sciences 6-107. <http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/homepage.nsf/website/nursing+rounds>

**Alberta Centre for Active Living**

**Presentation Day** Find out about the centre's work in producing and distributing physical activity information to over 17,000 practitioners. The centre also provides physical activity information for the Government of Alberta's Healthy U web site, produces the Alberta Survey on Physical Activity, carries out nationally and internationally recognized research, and works on a wide variety of other projects, including a home-based healthy living program for First Nations seniors. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Maple Leaf Room, University of Alberta Conference Centre (Lister Hall, 87 Ave. and 116 St.). <http://www.centre4activeliving.ca>

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute**

**Seminar: Discourse Analysis** Curriculum and Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series presents: Discourse Analysis of Textbooks (a mini-symposium) Presenters: Dr. David Pimm (Professor of Mathematics Education); Department of Secondary Education Dr. Irene Meglis (PhD student); Department of Secondary Education Julie Long (PhD candidate); Department of Elementary Education. All are welcome! Refreshments will be provided. 2 p.m. 122 Education South Education Centre. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education//pdfs/CPInWinter2006rev.pdf>

**MAY 27 2006**

**Saturday Walk with a Garden Horticulturist (Alpine)** Meet at the Shop-In-The-Garden at noon and tour the Alpine Garden and adjoining native plant areas, both in full bloom at this time. Horticulturist Linda Hewlett will guide the tour and provide answers to all your questions! Regular admission rates apply. Phone (780) 987-2064 to book your spot and to enjoy a spring walk! 12 - 2 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

**EFS SPRING EQUITY SEMINAR: DR. ROBERT BERMAN ON ESL** On the occasion of his leaving the U of A, Dr. Berman will reflect on the challenges facing ESL students, consider shared goals and emerging priorities in ESL, and discuss prospects for dialogue with EFS and the wider university. He will be joined by acting co-directors Mimi Hui and Ruth Jordan. 3 - 4 p.m. HC L-3.

**MAY 28 2006**

**Sunday Family Nature Walk (Spring)** Come and take a leisurely walk along the Bobby Dyde Nature Trail (2.5 km) with a guide who is familiar with the wildlife and vegetation along the way. This walk is geared to people of all ages and promises to be a most enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. Come and enjoy the beauty of the season with us! This event is free of charge, regular admission rates apply, however there is limited space. Please register by calling (780) 987-0362. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5 km north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

**MAY 30 2006**

**25th Anniversary Celebration of the Engineering Co-op Program** Join this anniversary celebration of the 25 years of Co-op. This event will bring together people who have experienced the benefits of Co-op as students and employers and will provide an opportunity to reconnect. 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC). <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

**25th Anniversary Celebration of the Engineering Co-op Program** Join this anniversary celebration of the 25 years of co-op. This event will bring together people who have experienced the benefits of co-op as students and employers and will provide an opportunity to reconnect. 4 - 7 p.m. Solarium, Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC). <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

**MAY 31 2006**

**PHS Grand Rounds** Guest Speaker: Dr. Wadih Yacoub, Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Region, Health Canada; Director, Health Protection, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Alberta Region, Health Canada; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences. "First Nations' Health in Alberta." 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical

Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

**Young Alumni Financial Education Seminar Series - Calgary (1 of 2)** Take this opportunity to expand your knowledge of personal finances. May 31, 2006. Get ahead financially. Join financial expert and author Jim Yih, for a discussion of personal financial planning, financial fitness, and tax planning strategies. 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Meeting Room 333 5th Ave SW Calgary. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/alumnieducation/>

**JUN 1 2006**

**Research Administrators' Workshop Series** Join RSO and University central administrative staff at this day-long series of workshops about research administration. More details about how to register for individual sessions will follow shortly. Mark your calendar today and check back to register for your preferred sessions. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Education Centre.

**Young Alumni Financial Education Seminar Series - Calgary (2 of 2)** Take this opportunity to expand your knowledge of personal finances. Investment Planning and Wealth Accumulation Receive detailed information on mutual funds, the stock and bond markets, and alternatives to traditional investment methods. Pre-registration is required (This is the second of two seminars, please visit our website for full details) 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Meeting Room, 333 5th Ave SW Calgary, Alberta. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/alumnieducation/>

# positions

*The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit [www.hrs.ualberta.ca](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca).*

## CHAIR DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

The Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at the University of Alberta invites applications for the position of Chair, Department of Human Ecology. Located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the University of Alberta is recognized nationally and internationally for educational and research pre-eminence, offering a very broad range of outstanding programs through a comprehensive set of faculties and schools. The University of Alberta is one of Canada's premier teaching and research intensive universities serving more than 35,500 students with some 8,000 faculty and staff. For more information about the University of Alberta go to [www.ualberta.ca](http://www.ualberta.ca).

The Department of Human Ecology is home to 12 full-time faculty members who conduct research on aging, parent-child relationships, vulnerable youth and families, protective clothing, material culture and design and aesthetics. Faculty members hold more than \$15 million in research funding, either individually or collaboratively with other researchers. With an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.7 million, this student-centred, research intensive department offers Masters and PhD programs in Family Ecology and Practice; Human Ecology and Aging; and Textiles and Clothing. Undergraduate degrees are offered with majors in Family Ecology and Textiles & Clothing. The department is home to a state-of-the-art protective clothing and equipment research facility, textile and apparel research laboratories, design studios, a social sciences research suite (including focus group, and parent-child observation laboratories), and a world-renowned clothing and textile collection that supports teaching and research. The department is one of four in the faculty and has close linkages and productive collaborations with other units on campus, particularly Arts, Education, the Health Sciences faculties, and Engineering. Additional information about the faculty and the department is available at [www.afhe.ualberta.ca](http://www.afhe.ualberta.ca).

The department seeks a chair committed to securing additional resources to support continued growth and excellence in teaching and research. The successful candidate will have an understanding of the human ecosystem perspective and will appreciate and support the diversity of scholarship in the department that ranges across the physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. The chair will bring vision, inspired leadership, strong strategic planning skills, and organizational and management skills. The chair will be a team builder and have a supportive and open administrative style. The successful candidate will have a doctorate and a strong research program of international renown in an area complementing or related to the department's areas of research strength. The successful candidate also will have a superior record of teaching and graduate student supervision.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, the names of three references, and a two-page vision statement for this position, may be sent to:

Dr. John Kennelly, Dean  
Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics

**Fort McMurray Regional Alumni and Friends Reception** Join other Fort McMurray-area University of Alberta Engineering alumni and friends of the Faculty as we pay tribute to all of you who carry on the great tradition of the U of A Engineer. 7 - 9 p.m. The Sawridge Inn and Conference Centre 530 MacKenzie Boulevard Fort McMurray, AB. Timberline Room. <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

**Quirks and Quarks CBC Radio broadcast from Edmonton** Quirks and Quarks, Canada's premier radio science show, will host its once-a-year taped-live broadcast on the University of Alberta campus. Admission is free. The Timms Centre's capacity is 300 so come early to reserve your seat. 7:30 - 9 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/quirks/>

**JUN 2 - JUN 4 2006**

**Chigiri-e (10th annual show & demo)** Joan King invites you to experience her world of Chigiri-e. Exotic and unique pictures are created using torn, imported Japanese paper. This is truly an extraordinary art form! On-going demonstrations are in the classroom area. Regular admission rates apply. Contact Visitor Services (780) 987-3054 for further information. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Devonian Botanic Garden (5KM north of the Town of Devon on Hwy. 60). <http://www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian>

Display advertisements: Camera-ready artwork is required to size, complete with halftones if necessary. Call 417-3464 for sizes, rates and other particulars.

## Dr. Catherine Fletcher and Dr. Vincentia Aung

Welcome U of A employees and their families!  
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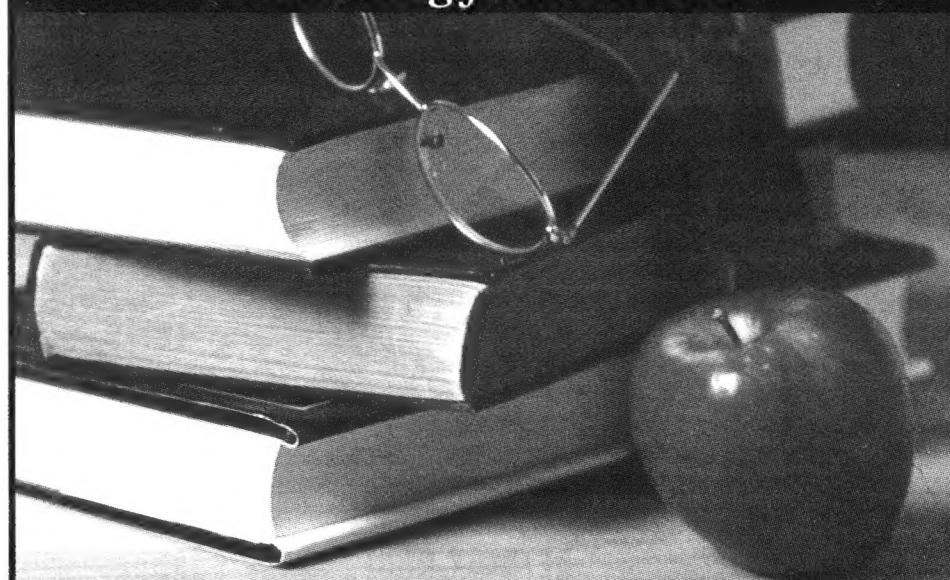


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This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is identified. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

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port improvements to library services and staff productivity and through participation in the Senior Administrative Team. Effectively planning, budgeting and allocating resources and implementing technology and applications in support of the vision, mission and goals of the Libraries, the Learning Services portfolio and the University. Supervising the Information Technology Resources and Services staff, consisting of five librarians responsible for operations, web development, digital initiatives, e-resources and licensing; and twenty technical/support and project staff. Ensuring that the Libraries' and Learning Services' interests are represented on campus-wide committees and activities related to technology.

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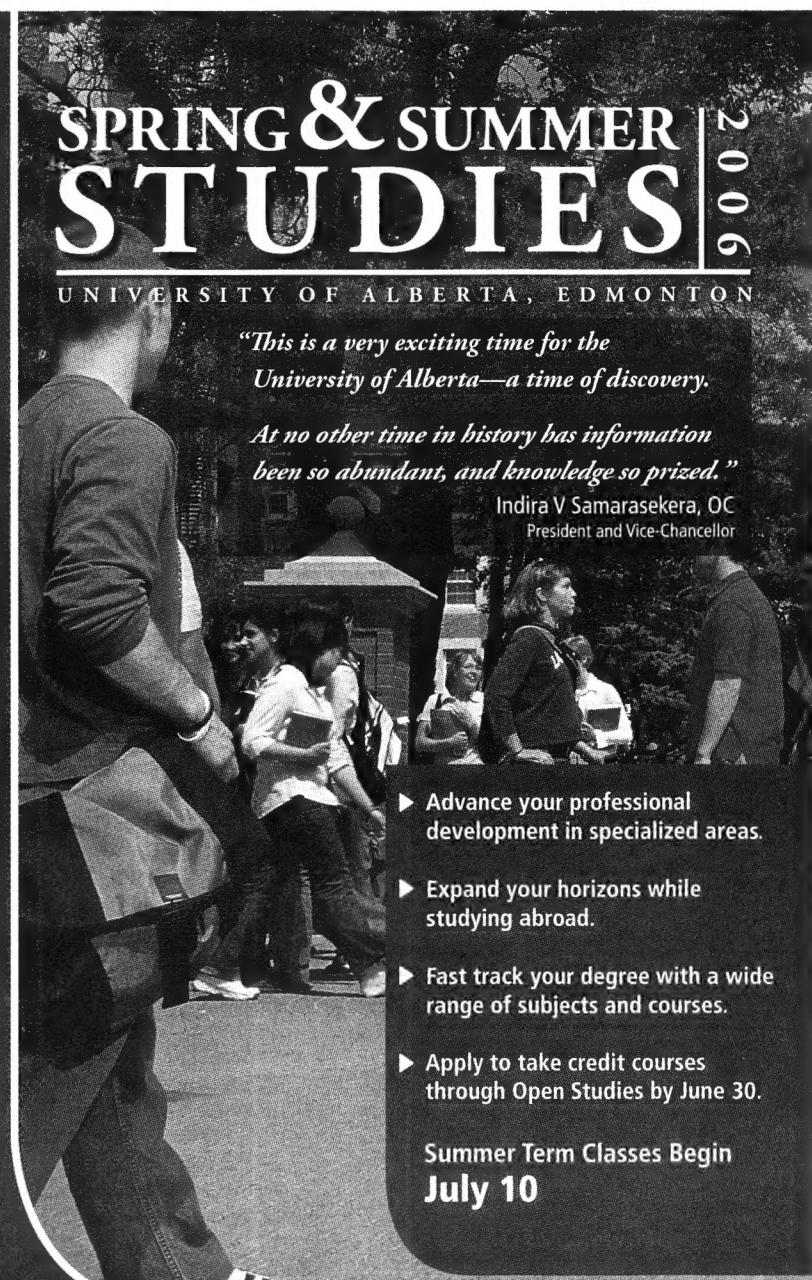
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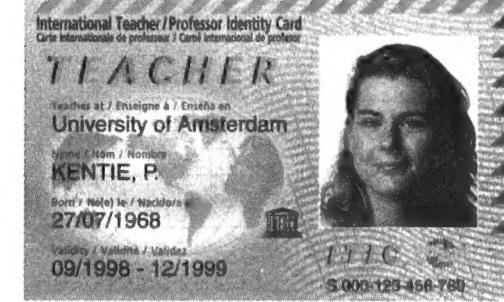
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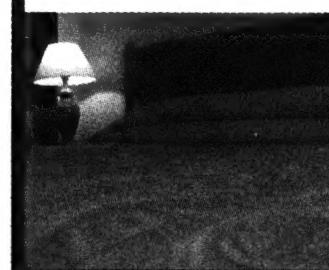
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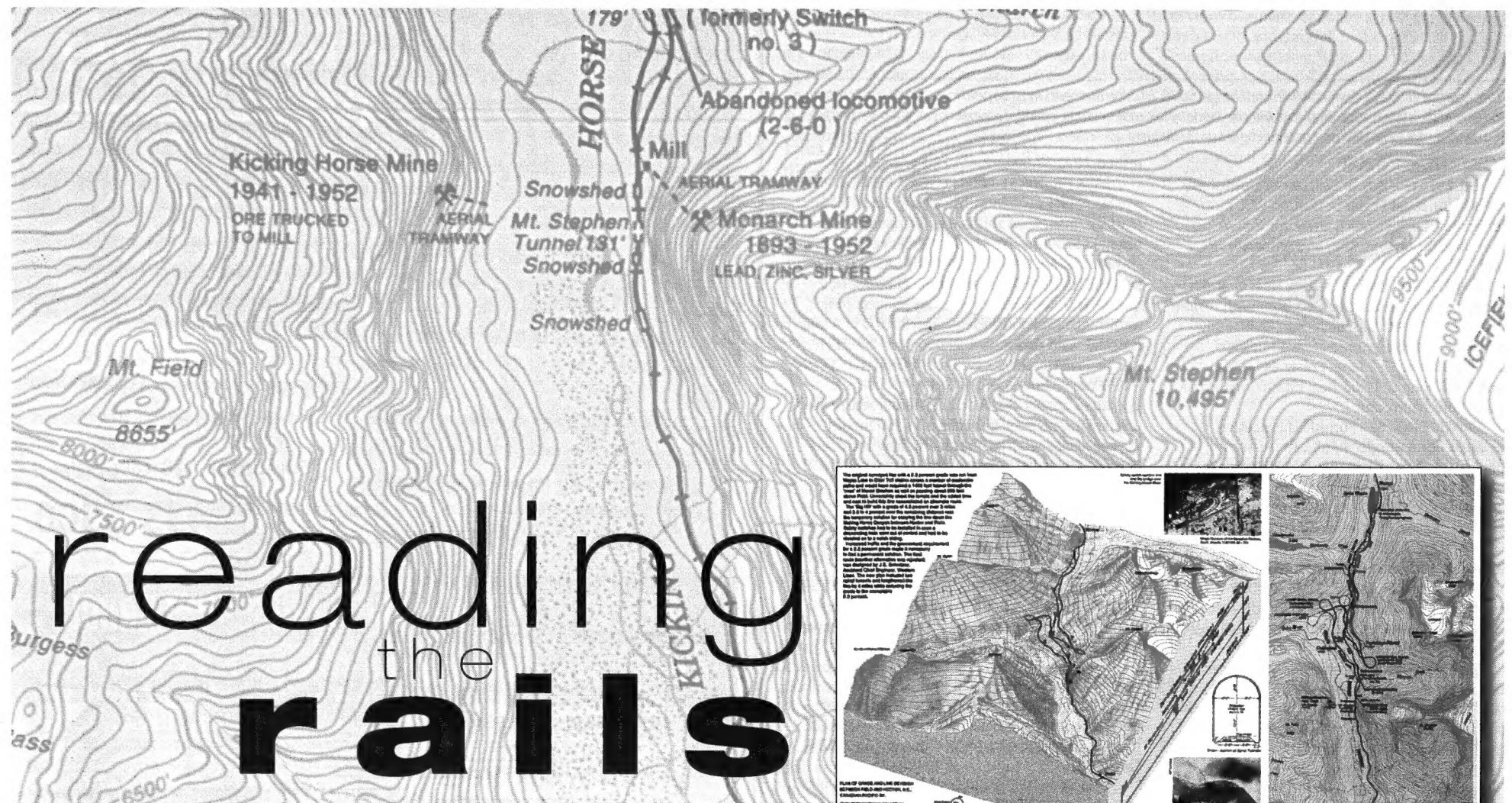
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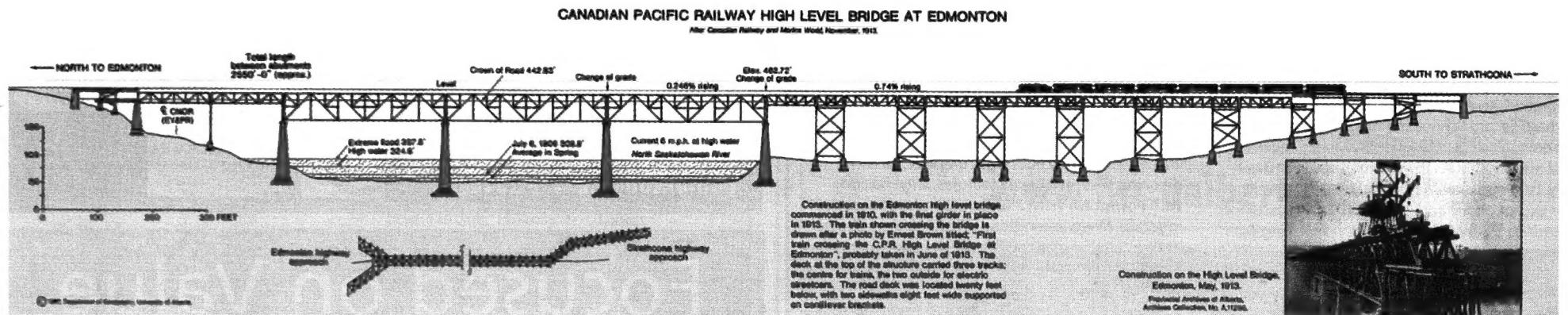
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## Online atlas documents Alberta's railway history

By Richard Cairney



Geoff Lester refers to himself as a geographer and a cartographer, not an author. But his research, which forms the spine of a recently published website entitled *An Atlas of Alberta Railways & the CN Fonds*, is so exhaustive that you'll find yourself immersed and fascinated to a surprising extent.

Relief maps, maps of towns, archival photographs and news stories about Alberta's railways fill one of the best-organized websites you'll find.

"I'm not a railway buff, I am a geographer," said Lister, a retired University of Alberta staff member who once served as supervising cartographer in the now-defunct Department of Geography. "An atlas seemed the best way in which a lot of disparate material could be brought together."

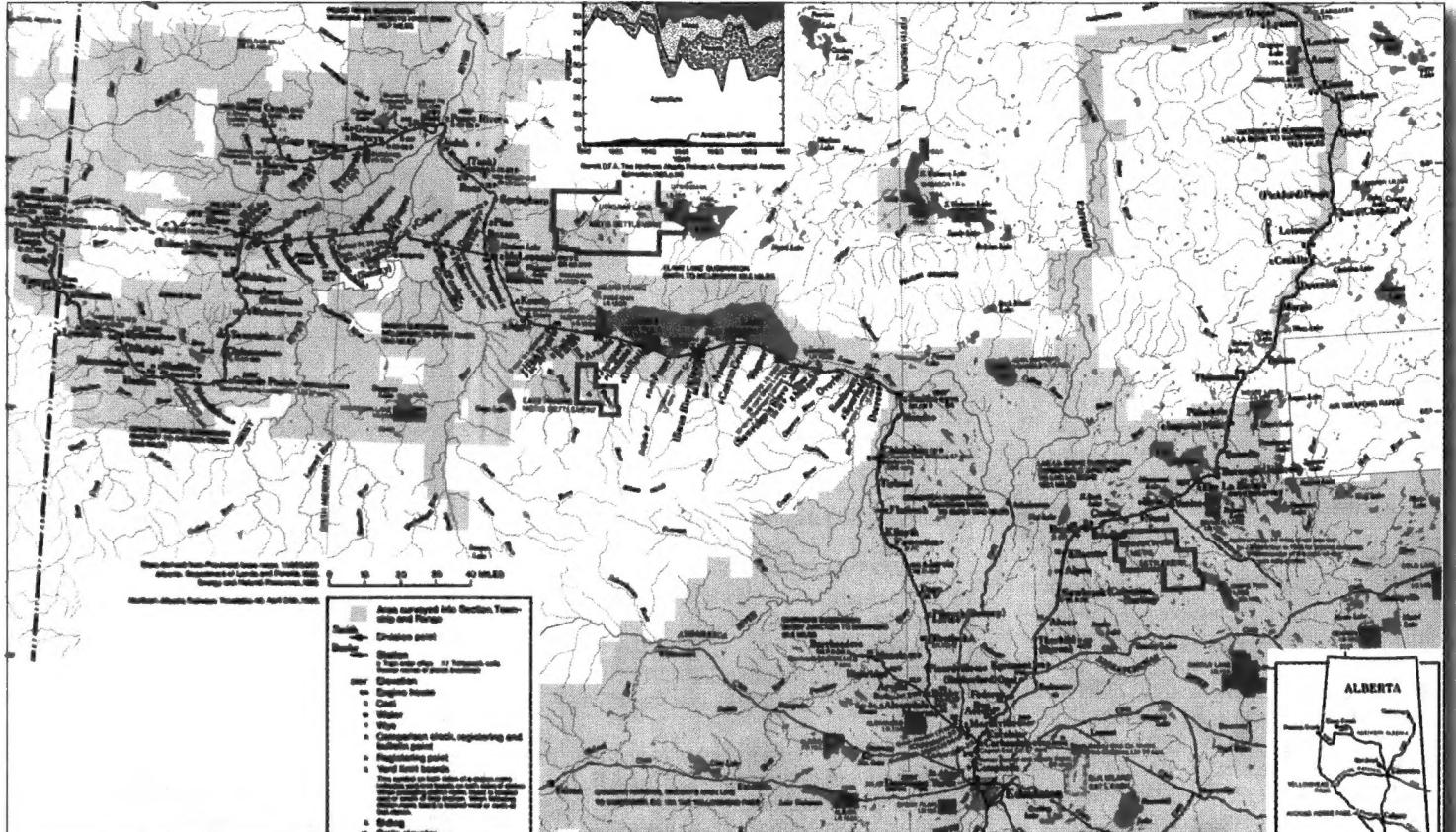
Lister began working on the atlas between other projects, in 1981 and by 1996 it was ready to be published. But because of technical and financial issues, the project was shelved.

"It never went completely off the rails, it was on the sidelines for a number of years," said U of A Press editor Mary Mahoney Robson. "I don't know how many dog-and-pony shows I've done with this thing."

Eventually technology advanced to a point where the project could be produced online.

"I couldn't have even done this project in 2000. The computers didn't have the ability, the Web didn't sing and dance the way it does now," she said. The university's partnership in the Text Analysis Portal for Research (TAPoR) a national online research initiative, was essential in developing the site, she added.

That singing, dancing website, published jointly by the U of A Press and



the Provincial Archives of Alberta was launched late last month. The website is located at: <http://railways-atlas.tapor.ualberta.ca/cocoon/atlas/>.

But the bells and whistles of the site aren't the most important element.

"The primary importance of this is the railways, not only in settling the Prairies by bringing in settlers and taking out resources," said Lester. "A lot of the little railway lines were resource railways – that was the means by which people and goods were exported to and from various places. Without the railways there would have been no settlement." ■

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